

JACKSON, Michigan (AP) — A group of Michigan factory workers who were preparing to go on strike won a \$46 million judgment on Monday, even after a judge ruled they had lost their case. The workers, who are employed by the General Motors Corp. plant in Jackson, won the judgment after a federal judge ruled that the company had violated the National Labor Relations Act. The workers' union, the United Auto Workers, had filed a lawsuit against GM, claiming that the company had fired several workers for participating in a strike. The judge ruled in favor of the workers, ordering GM to pay them \$46 million in damages. The workers' union said it was pleased with the judgment and that it would now be able to negotiate with GM on a more equal footing.

Menem wants portugal champion in congress

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Argentine President Carlos Menem said he was proposing to name Portugal's Vasco da Gama as the champion of the 1997 World Cup. Menem, who is visiting Argentina on a goodwill tour, said he was "impressed" by the team's performance in the 1994 World Cup. He said he was "impressed" by the team's performance in the 1994 World Cup. He said he was "impressed" by the team's performance in the 1994 World Cup. He said he was "impressed" by the team's performance in the 1994 World Cup.

Royal yacht plan too taxing for Britons

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Conservative government is planning to build a new royal yacht, but it may face opposition from taxpayers. The plan to build a new royal yacht, which would cost about \$100 million, has been met with criticism from some members of the public. Some people are concerned that the cost of the yacht is too high, especially at a time when the government is facing a budget deficit. The government has said that the yacht is necessary for the royal family's official duties and that it will be built to a high standard. However, some people are questioning the need for a new yacht and the cost of the project.

Conservatives plan to privatize U.K. taxmen

LONDON (AP) — British Conservative MPs are planning to privatize the tax authority, the Inland Revenue. The plan is to turn the Inland Revenue into a public company, which would be owned by the government. The plan is part of a broader effort to privatize public services. The Inland Revenue is responsible for collecting taxes and administering the tax system. It is one of the largest departments in the government. The plan to privatize the Inland Revenue has been met with criticism from some members of the public. Some people are concerned that the privatization of the Inland Revenue will lead to a loss of public control over the tax system. However, the government has said that the privatization of the Inland Revenue will lead to a more efficient and cost-effective tax system.

Dog nabbed

SALINE, Michigan (AP) — A dog named "Charlie" was found after being missing for several days. The dog was found by a local resident and was returned to its owner. The dog was a small, white, fluffy dog and was very friendly. The owner said that the dog had been missing for about a week and that he was very worried about its safety. The dog was found in a field near the owner's home. The owner said that the dog had been very happy to be found and that he was very grateful to the person who found it. The dog was returned to its owner and is now back home.

## U.S. sees 'struggles for power' in Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said on Wednesday it sees internal "struggles for power" going on in Iraq for control. White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, asked for his assessment of reports by a senior U.S. military official that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has put his wife under house arrest (see page 12), said: "There are a great deal of complicated internal struggles for power" going on. "There have been some things that have happened recently that have been reported publicly that would indicate some internal machinations." Mr. McCurry said. Mr. McCurry said the United States was "closely monitoring" the situation in Iraq. "The president also has foremost on his mind the threats to regional security, particularly in the Persian Gulf," Mr. McCurry said, adding that there were no indications of troop movements that would suggest any renewed threat to Kuwait.

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### Israeli jets raid Hizbollah stronghold

SIDON (AFP) — Israeli warplanes raided suspected positions of the Hizbollah in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, police said. Four Israeli jets fired missiles at the Iqim Al Tuffah region, a stronghold of Hizbollah guerrillas near the southern port city of Sidon, police said. There was no immediate word of casualties or damage. In Israel, a military spokesman said "the planes hit their targets and returned safely to base."

### Iraq accuses Iran of operating its planes

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi official on Wednesday accused Iran of operating two of the five civilian Iraqi Airways jets which were flown to Iran for safety during the 1991 Gulf war. The general manager of Iraqi Airways, Rabb Muhammad Saleh, told the official Al-Jumhuriya newspaper he "had solid information" that Iran was using two of its five planes to fly passengers on domestic routes.

### S. Arabia protests over detention in Iran

PRETORIA (AFP) — South Africa's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that it had lodged "a strong protest" with Iran over the detention without trial of a South African tourist in Tehran. Foreign affairs spokesman Marco Bori said 27-year-old Stuart Timm, has been held without charge since he was arrested by Iranian authorities on Jan. 12. "They (Iranians) claim his travel documents are not in order, but have not explained the reason for his lengthy detention," Mr. Bori said. "They say investigations are continuing." The director-general of South Africa's Foreign Affairs Department, Rusty Evans, also met Iran's ambassador in Pretoria on Tuesday to discuss the matter. "Mr. Timm was working on a social programme in neighbouring Turkmenistan and visited Iran with a Swiss companion to buy leather when they were arrested, according to the SAPA news agency."

### Turkey says armed gang members arrested

BATMAN (R) — Security officials said on Wednesday they had arrested 28 members of an armed Islamist group in southeast Turkey in connection with two murders and an extortion racket. "A blow has been struck against the Hizbollah organisation which has been trying to disrupt the peace," said Salih Sarman, governor of the southeastern province of Batman. He told a news conference the 28 had been arrested in Batman in the last month. Hizbollah is not believed to be connected to the pro-Iranian Lebanese group of similar name. It has been accused of killing a number of Kurdish activists in recent years in a feud with the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebel group. Mr. Sarman said Hizbollah had been forcing shopkeepers and traders in Batman to pay Islamic alms, "the commercial sector in Batman can now rest easy."

### Turkish ships leave northern Cyprus

ANKARA (R) — Three Turkish navy ships left northern Cyprus on Wednesday after a five-day visit to show Ankara's solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot state, state news agency Anadolu said. Crowds waved Turkish Cypriot and Turkish flags as the frigates and two assault boats left the port of Famagusta in northeastern Cyprus, the agency said. Turkey has promised closer military and political links with the self-declared Turkish Cypriot republic in response to Greek Cypriot plans to install anti-aircraft missiles from Russia in the south of the island.

## Four Mideast leaders to visit U.S. in two months

Netanyahu on Feb. 13, Arafat on March 3, Mubarak on March 10 and King on March 18

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said on Wednesday the leaders of Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians and Egypt will hold separate meetings with President Bill Clinton in the next two months. Spokesman Mike McCurry said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would visit Washington on Feb. 13. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will make his visit March 3, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak coming on March 10 and King Hussein on March 18.

The U.S. president had confirmed the four visits on Tuesday and added that a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria would be a key subject discussed.

The visits had been expected but the dates had not been set. Mr. McCurry said the visits were separate because there was no dramatic development in the peace process that would make a summit of the leaders necessary.

"With each of these leaders we can have a somewhat more comprehensive dialogue outside the emergency context of dealing with a specific event that requires immediate focus and attention," he said.

He said in some cases the visits were scheduled for the convenience of the leaders themselves, and that the order of the trips was of no particular significance.

"These are all visits in which we will explore not only the bilateral regional concerns we have with these leaders but also seek to deepen and strengthen the Middle East peace process as we search for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," Mr. McCurry said.

The new U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned Mr. Arafat on Tuesday to assure him she will work to advance the peace process, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

It said the secretary of state congratulated Mr. Arafat on the Jan. 15 signing of the U.S.-brokered Hebron accord for an

### Israel adds 84 settlements to its list for priority funding

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu's government has put another 84 settlements, including Jewish enclaves in Hebron, on priority "A" and "B" lists to receive special government funding, according to a report published Wednesday.

The details of the plan were revealed in a recent cabinet meeting after the government decided late last year to grant vast financial incentives to Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The move to expand the presence of settlers in lands where Palestinians hope to create a separate state brought massive criticism against Mr. Netanyahu from around the world.

The latest decision detailed in the Haaretz newspaper brought to 123 the number of settlements slated for special financial subsidies, mostly in the realm of education. There are 144 settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Among those included on the "A" list that will also receive special treatment in housing, industry, taxation and welfare are the ultra-orthodox city Emanuel and settlements in and around the West Bank city of Hebron.

Some 450 Jewish settlers live in Hebron surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

After his rise to power in June, Mr. Netanyahu decided to unfreeze settlement expansion that had been limited under the previous Labour government in efforts not to damage the peace process with the Palestinians.

Former Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer labelled as "terrible" the decision to grant settlers more grants, saying the government was doing "great harm to the weaker population centres" by drawing funding away from them.

Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

Wafa also reported that Ms. Albright said she hopes to meet the Palestinian leader on his visit to Washington.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk reaffirmed Tuesday that Israel alone would decide the extent of the three further troop pullouts it has promised in the West Bank.

"The further redeployment is an issue for implementation," Mr. McCurry said.

## Netanyahu 'actively' moving to resume negotiation with Syria

Khaddam: No movement towards quick talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he is actively preparing for a resumption of peace talks with Syria even though Damascus has yet to signal its readiness to return to the negotiating table.

In other related developments: The Washington Post reported that Syria and Israel were on the verge of a peace agreement when the then-Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, decided to call early general elections in May 1996.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that there was no movement towards a quick resumption of peace talks between Syria and Israel.

In his comments on Wednesday, Mr. Netanyahu also appeared to dangle what he said were economic benefits for Syria in reaching a peace agreement with Israel.

In interviews with Israel Radio and the Haaretz newspaper, Mr. Netanyahu said he was confident peace talks frozen for the past 11 months would soon be resumed despite stark disagreement over the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

"It is possible for find a new formula ... that allows the two sides to come from

### Assad satisfied with EU bid

DAMASCUS (AFP) — President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday backed the role which Europe plans to assume in the Middle East peace process, following talks with a European Union (EU) special envoy on restarting negotiations with Israel.

"President Assad said he was satisfied with the EU's intention to play a positive and active role to help reach a comprehensive and just peace," his spokesman Gibril Kourieh said after talks between Mr. Assad and Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Mr. Assad also "reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process" and insisted on the need to comply with the "basic ideas" underlying this process, Mr. Kourieh told reporters.

Mr. Moratinos briefed the Syrian president on the aims of his tour and affirmed the European Union's desire "to play a positive role in the peace efforts," the spokesman added.

Mr. Moratinos came to Damascus to discuss prospects for restarting Syrian-Israeli peace talks, which were broken off a year ago.

The envoy met Tuesday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa to discuss the EU role, the Israeli troop pull-back from Hebron, and prospects for resuming the Syrian-Israeli talks, a member of the EU delegation told AFP.

Mr. Sharaa "showed himself to be curious and distrustful" about Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy's statements last week regarding U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the official added.

Mr. Levy called for Syria to resume the talks on the basis of the principles on which the peace process was launched in 1991. He said Israel accepts Resolution 242 even if it interprets the resolution differently from the Arabs.

## King urges democratic practices that do not harm national unity

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein reassured Jordanians Wednesday of his good health and thanked them for the affection they expressed towards him following a minor surgery in both knees he underwent on Saturday.

During a visit to the Prime Ministry, King Hussein reviewed with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarini several Arab issues, the outcome of his latest phone calls with several Arab leaders and Arab solidarity.

The King and Mr. Kabarini also focused on restructuring several national economic institutions in order to increase its productivity and efficiency.

King Hussein reiterated the importance of exercising democracy in a good manner that does not harm democratic life in a way or another and called for national unity among the one Jordanian family.

The King's statement on national unity came amid a number of lectures and articles in local newspapers by leading politicians and columnists centred on relations between Jordanians of

East Bank origin and Jordanians of Palestinian origin. Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali, in a lecture delivered in Irbid earlier this week, said the Palestinian refugees who originally came from Palestine, present-day Israel, and who are, under a lasting settlement, would not be able to go back to their homes, should be considered as Jordanians.

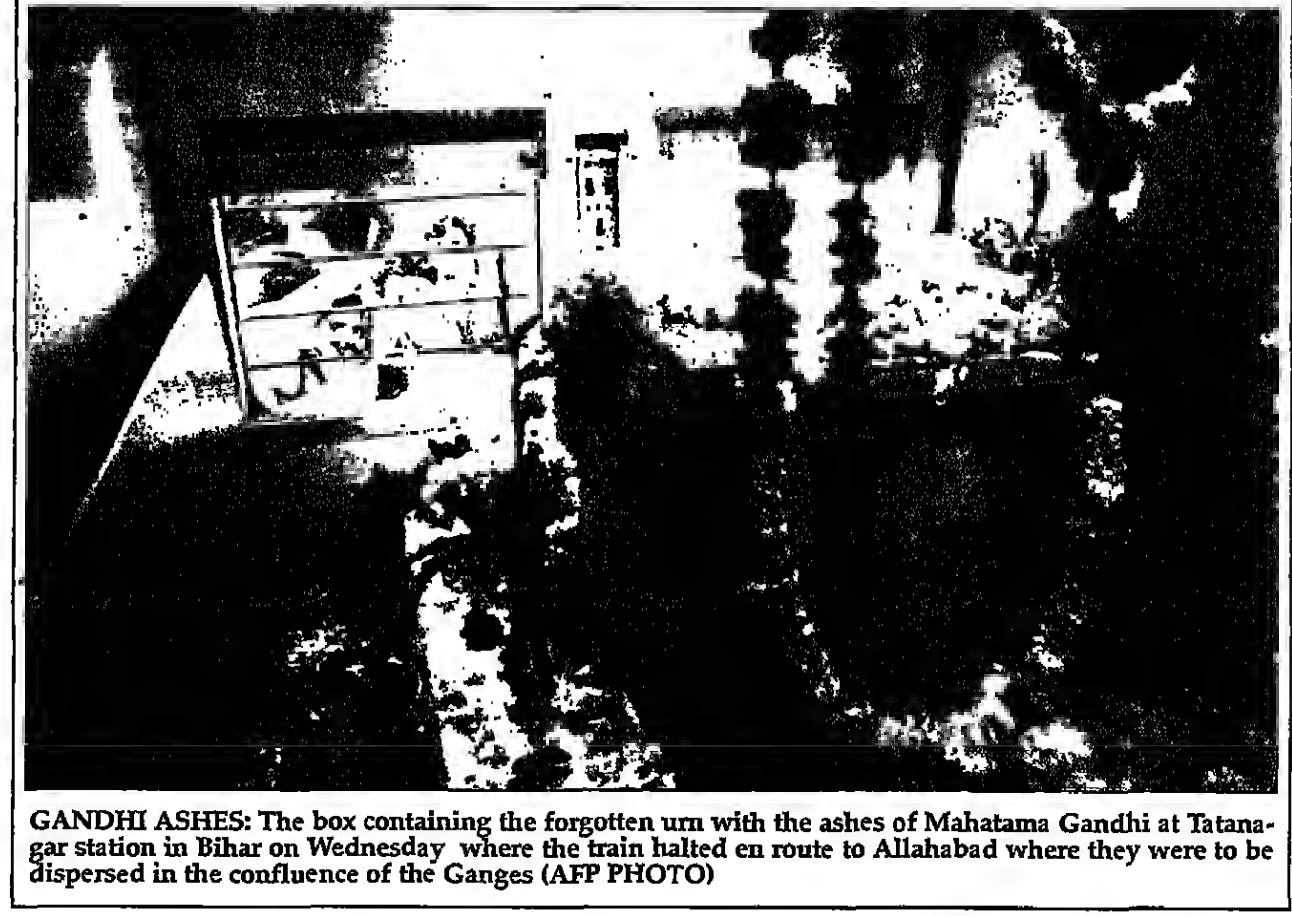
Mr. Majali, who is also the leader of the second largest party in Jordan Al Ahd, said that Jordanians who hail from the West Bank or Gaza

are Palestinians who should practise their political rights on Palestinian soil. "Those who wish to remain Jordanians should ask for that, and then identity and loyalty should be fixed," he said.

Responding to Mr. Majali was former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri who hails from the West Bank city of Nablus.

Mr. Masri described Mr. Majali's thoughts as "dangerous."

(Continued on page 7)



GANDHI ASHES: The box containing the forgotten urn with the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi at Tatnagar station in Bihar on Wednesday where the train halted en route to Allahabad where they were to be dispersed in the confluence of the Ganges (AFP PHOTO)

## Beilin: Israel should leave Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel should pull its troops out of Lebanon unilaterally because a negotiated withdrawal is not within reach and too many soldiers are being killed, an Israeli legislator said Wednesday.

Yossi Beilin, a former cabinet minister and prominent member of the opposition Labour Party, said France offered to help arrange such a withdrawal last April.

However, then Prime Minister Shimon Peres turned down the proposal because he felt such a move would be unpopular especially a month before the general elections, Mr. Beilin said.

Mr. Beilin said Syria, the main power in Lebanon, would block attempts to negotiate a withdrawal because it was interested in keeping Israeli troops in southern Lebanon as a justification of the Syrian military presence.

The Israeli buffer zone was established in 1985 ostensibly to shield northern Israeli settlements from guerrilla attacks. The zone is patrolled by Israeli soldiers and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army, a force of about 2,500.

Mr. Beilin, who was cabinet secretary in 1985 dur-

## 5 Jordanian prisoners in hospital after reported Kuwaiti beating up

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five Jordanians remain in a Kuwaiti hospital from among 20 who were beaten up by a special forces team who stormed a prison after they made a public protest against bad conditions in detention, independent sources said Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry, prompted by a protest action staged by family members of the prisoners, called in the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires for an explanation of the incident.

The diplomat denied the reported Jan. 22 incident at the Selbiyah prison in Kuwait, where up to 60 Jordanians are serving term after being convicted of "collaborating" with Iraq during the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

The government said it was also in touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as the Qatari and Omani authorities over the reported incident, Jordan Television reported.

The ICRC, which serves as the only link between the prisoners and their families here, declined to make any comment on the reported assault.

The all-Swiss humanitarian agency reaffirmed that it was "keen to maintain its regular visits to Jordanian prisoners held in Kuwait and send its observations to the highest prison authorities in Kuwait."

But the independent sources, who preferred anonymity, said the incident did take place and confirmed a report that appeared in a local Jordanian daily.

According to the sources, "at least 20 Jordanian prisoners were admitted in hospital and 15 of them have been discharged after treatment."

(Continued on page 7)

## Former Israeli justice minister put on trial adding to premier's woes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Justice Minister Yaacov Neeman went on trial Wednesday charged with fraud and obstruction of justice in the latest of a flurry of legal problems for close associates of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Neeman, who resigned his cabinet position after being indicted last year, is charged with witness tampering and providing false information to the courts in a bid to protect a leading politician, Ariele Deri, who is on trial for bribery. Mr. Neeman has denied the charges.

Mr. Deri, head of the powerful religious party Shas which is the second biggest group in Mr.

## Rubinstein confirmed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rocky effort to appoint an attorney general nearly collapsed again Wednesday when the nominee refused to undergo a lie detector test for a security clearance.

In the end, Elyakim Rubinstein was confirmed unanimously by the 18-member cabinet after agreeing to honor the conclusions of a government committee on polygraphs.

Mr. Rubinstein's appointment came after police launched an investigation into a scandal that erupted after Mr. Netanyahu earlier this month tried to appoint a Likud party loyalist to the post.

Mr. Rubinstein's appointment, by comparison, was widely hailed. The 50-year-old judge was a legal adviser to late Premier Menachem Begin in the late 1970s, when he was instrumental in negotiating the breakthrough peace accord with Egypt. He served as cabinet secretary in Likud and Labour governments and led Israel's 1994 peace talks with Jordan. But his confirmation was nearly scuttled when he refused to take the polygraph test. After a standoff of several hours the government decided to establish a committee, to be headed by Mr. Netanyahu and include Mr. Rubinstein, to examine the issue.



## Israel extends detention of Jordanian engineer

Activists criticise government, but consul in Tel Aviv says efforts continue for man's release

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A member of Parliament and an activist of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) on Wednesday accused the government of doing little to secure the release of a Jordanian detained in Israel.

The charges by Deputy Tawaj Faisal (Amman) and Mazen Rial of the JEA followed news from Israel that Hatem Istanbuli, who was detained on Dec. 26 while on his return home from a West Bank visit, was remanded in custody for another 15 days.

The Jordanian consul in Tel Aviv, Omar Nahar, rejected the charge of government inactivity and said the Kingdom's diplomatic mission in Israel was trying its best to secure the release of Mr. Istanbuli, a member of the JEA's "committee against normalisation of relations with Israel."

Arrested by the Israeli secret service Mossad and held incommunicado for the first 15 days, Mr. Istanbuli still has not been allowed contact with his family.

Hopes voiced last week that Mr. Istanbuli would be released before the Eid al-Fitr holiday have now been dashed by the announcement Monday by Israeli authorities of his continued detention.

"Under Israeli law, they may detain him for up to 100 days before being forced to release him," Consul Nahar said Tuesday.

Deputy Faisal expressed indignation when informed by the JEA about Mr. Istanbuli's situation, and pledged to do all that she could to help, according to Mr. Rial.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Ms. Faisal accused the government of not doing enough to protect Jordanian citizens.

"Can we allow Israel to grant our citizens visas and then arrest them as they leave? It is a trap," Ms. Faisal told the Jordan Times.

But Shalom Tourgeman, spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Amman, said: "Mr. Istanbuli applied for and received a visa under regular procedures; there was no plot to arrest him."

Elena Mitterman, head of the Jordan division at the foreign ministry, said Mr. Istanbuli "was legally arrested and is currently under investigation as he is suspected of belonging to a terrorist organisation."

She referred further questions to the Israeli mission in Amman. Deputy Faisal dismissed the assertion that Mr. Istanbuli was suspected of "terrorist activities" and said he was just another victim of Israeli aggression.

"His real crime is that he is a member of the JEA and opposed to normalisation of ties with Israel," she added.

"What would happen if Jordan arrested an Israeli citizen because of his political beliefs or his involvement with a party like Likud?" said Mr. Rial.

No immediate comment was available from the Prime Ministry on Wednesday.

Both groups have been campaigning for his release, seeking help from politicians and other human interest groups. "All efforts have failed to push our government into actively pursuing his release," said Mr. Rial, a prominent member of the JEA. According to Mr. Rial, a joint letter sent by the JEA and the AOHR three weeks ago to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was still unanswered.

in there to chemical." The tangential references deal in general terms with the threat of chemical weapons, Mr. Bacon said.

He said the generals' logs made no mention of Khamsiyah, the Iraqi weapons munitions depot where U.S. troops unwittingly destroyed rockets filled with the lethal nerve gas sarin in early March 1991, shortly after the war ended.

The mishap was not uncovered by the Pentagon until May of last year, but since then officials have said as many as 20,000 U.S. troops in the vicinity of the dump may have been exposed to low

levels of nerve agent. The Pentagon, however, has held fast to the position that there was no evidence Iraq used chemical agents during the war.

Suspensions of a Pentagon cover-up have run high among veterans, thousands of whom have reported coming down with unexplained illnesses since serving in the Gulf.

Gen. Schwarzkopf was scheduled to testify Wednesday before a congressional committee looking into Gulf war illnesses.

Britain, another country which contributed soldiers to the Gulf war, is pursuing its own investigations into the so-called Gulf war syndrome.



POPE SHENOUDA III AT BEIRUT: A believer kisses the hand of Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III at Beirut airport during a two-hour stopover the clergyman made there on his way back home to Egypt after attending a meeting in Cyprus (AFP photo)

## Cypriot MP reappears

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot politician who hid in a firing range to protest against British military exercises there re-appeared on Tuesday night after two days in the wilderness.

"I had a really good time," member of parliament (MP) Marios Matsakis told Cyprus state radio. "I spent two magical days in the Akamas."

Mr. Matsakis, an MP for the centre-right Democratic Party, was one of a party of 15 environmentalists who hid in thick bush at the firing range in the northwestern Akamas peninsula on Monday to delay the start of the exercises.

When he failed to appear on Monday evening his family filed a report to police on his disappearance. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Matsakis appeared of his own volition or was found by police.

Police believe other activists may be hiding in the range, where British troops have staked exercises with live ammunition. The firing range, covered with dense vegetation, covers an expanse of six square kilometres.

## Egypt restores priest's tomb fit for a pharaoh

GIZA (R) — Egyptian archaeologists have finished restoring a unique tomb of an ancient priest with royal pretensions who decided he would be buried as well as a pharaoh even if he could not become one.

Submerged under the desert west of the Giza pyramids, the tomb of old kingdom priest Kai and his family is the only one in the area to boast delicate, detailed inscriptions and bright colours the like of which were seen only hundreds of years later.

"I call this the Nefertari of Giza," archaeologist Zahi Hawas, director of the Giza plateau, told Reuters on Tuesday, referring to the magnificent decorated tomb Ramses II built in Luxor more than 3,000 years ago for his favourite wife.

The paintings are beautiful and rare and the colours not found in any other old kingdom tomb in the western burial site at Giza," he added.

Archaeologists took almost three years to restore the limestone offering chapel of the tomb, which was discovered in 1993 buried beneath centuries of sand and rubble.

The chapel, embellished with inscriptions and colourful relief depictions of everyday life, helped unfold the story of a man who appears to have worked his way up from lowly origins.

Mr. Hawas said the writings also distinguish the tomb from any other because they list the four types of workers who built it — the sculptors, the draftsmen, the painters and sculptors whom Kai said he paid in beer and bread.

"The inscriptions on the tomb show that he wore many hats during his lifetime. He was a sailor then he became head of a sailing consignment, he was also a judicial notary and had several other titles in addition to being a priest," said archaeologist Sana'a Mohammad who worked on the tomb.

"It seems that he may have had origins that were not noble but the inscriptions say that the king made him a noble man and a trusted aide," she added.

Four burial wells were also discovered containing the remains of what archaeologists believe to be Kai, his first wife and his favourite son and daughter, pictures of whom are carefully etched on the walls of the tomb.

Mr. Hawas also said they found the remains of a pig, food for the peasant and working classes in pharaonic times.

The tomb lists the hieroglyphic name of the old kingdom pharaohs Seneferu and Chephre but archaeologists say Kai probably served in the court of pyramid-builder Cheops.

Kai also had a weakness for women and had two wives as well as a mistress but was attached to his first wife, who features prominently in the tomb and in a unique stone sketch of ancient marital bliss. "No other tomb ever shows a woman hugging and hanging on her husband's neck like this one," Mr. Hawas said. "He was also fond of one of his daughters who is repeatedly shown clutching her father's feet."

Mr. Hawas said Kai had built another tomb for himself and the family further east and that the western tomb was originally intended for Nubereit, his favourite daughter.

But archaeologists say the earlier tomb had fewer inscriptions and listed titles of lower rank and that Kai's vanity led him to take over the western tomb rather than modify the old one.

## Prayer leaders urged to warn against 'Satan worshipping'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's prayer leaders have been urged to stress the danger of religious "deviations" in a bid to fight alleged "Satan worshipping." Religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqzai said Wednesday.

"The ministry has given instructions to the country's imams to include in their Friday sermons calls on families to protect their children against deviationist and harmful ideas," Mr. Zaqzai said, according to Al-Ahram daily.

"Children should be protected from those who strive to play with the minds of our youth such as 'satan worshippers'," the government daily quoted him as saying.

Echoing recent statements by government officials, Muslim and Christian clerics, Mr. Zaqzai said that "Satan worshipping was foreign to our society which is known for its religious fervour."

Last week the Egyptian authorities dismantled a sect which allegedly urged "scorn for religions and the veneration of Satan," police said in the first such report of its kind in Egypt.

Dozens of youths were rounded up by the authorities who later released 27 after they "repented." Police are still looking for 19 more.

On Monday, Egypt's mufti, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wasseel, urged "Satan worshippers" to repent and said that otherwise, under Islamic law, they could be sentenced to death.

## Egyptian editor released on bail

The Egyptian authorities have released on bail a newspaper editor facing one year in prison for defaming the son of Interior Minister Hassan Al-Ali, the newspaper said Wednesday.

"Magdi Hussein was released Tuesday evening on a 1,000-pound (\$333) bail," a spokesman for the weekly Islamic newspaper Al-Sabaah said.

Mr. Hussein was arrested at his home Monday after a court sentenced him to one year in prison for publishing a defamatory article last year about Alaa Hassan Al-Ali, the son of the interior minister.

Mr. Hussein, the editor-in-chief of Al-Sabaah, was released on bail after his defence lawyers presented the court with documents which it had requested, the newspaper spokesman said.

In May, Egypt's court of appeal gave Mr. Hussein another 12-month sentence, suspended for three years, after a similar complaint by the minister's son. If the court of appeals confirms Sunday's verdict, the previous sentence will also be applied against Mr. Hussein.

## Kuwaitis urged to destroy their satellite dishes

KUWAIT (R) — An Islamist group is offering Kuwaitis incentives to voluntarily destroy their satellite dishes and video and audio tapes, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Residents in a tribal area said teenagers had asked them to "uproot" their satellite dishes because they were "sacrilegious," Al-Wakeel newspaper reported.

It said that a group calling itself the Abdullah Ben Al-Arqam Mosque Group was offering residents electrical appliances as "prizes" to those who hand over the largest amount of audio and video tapes and destroy their satellite receivers.

Al-Wakeel said three satellite receivers, 300 video tapes and 1,000 audio tapes were destroyed in a ceremony in front of a mosque in the area while other worshippers promised to return with their satellite equipment.

Some Islamists in the Middle East have voiced concern that programmes on Western satellite television channels violate Muslim values and threaten their culture. Satellite dishes are very popular in Kuwait as in other oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

## Schwarzkopf's logs uninformative on chemical weapons — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — General Norman Schwarzkopf's Gulf war logs contain "darned little" about chemical weapons and nothing about the destruction of sarin-filled Iraqi rockets by U.S. troops, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Pentagon officials reviewed the former Gulf war commander's logs after a U.S. Senator charged that they could shed light on the possible chemical weapons use during the 1991 war.

"The finding was there was darn little in there about chemicals," said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon. "There were only tangential references

levels of nerve agent. The Pentagon, however, has held fast to the position that there was no evidence Iraq used chemical agents during the war.

Suspensions of a Pentagon cover-up have run high among veterans, thousands of whom have reported coming down with unexplained illnesses since serving in the Gulf.

Gen. Schwarzkopf was scheduled to testify Wednesday before a congressional committee looking into Gulf war illnesses.

Britain, another country which contributed soldiers to the Gulf war, is pursuing its own investigations into the so-called Gulf war syndrome.

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## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 Cartoon — Ovide & the Gang and Iris

14:00 .....Moonin

14:30 They Came From Outer Space

15:00 Feature Film: "A Stranger in Time"

16:50 .....Call For Prayer and Ifar

17:30 .....French Programmes

19:30 .....News Headlines

19:33 .....Parade

20:00 .....Documentary

20:30 Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)

21:10 .....Kung Fu: The Legend

22:00 .....News in English

23:00 .....Documentary

23:50 Feature Film: "Angel Flight Down"

23:00 .....Mini Series

01:05 .....Ramadan Talks

## PRAYER TIMES

05:07 .....Fajr

06:26 .....(Sunrise) Duha

11:49 .....Dhuhr

14:46 .....Asr

17:11 .....Maghreb

18:30 .....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swifelh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623360

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Under the effect of a depression affecting the Kingdom today, and expected to last until Friday, rainfall is expected today with snow falling in the evening over hilly areas and winds becoming northwesterly active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas rough.

Mini/Max. Temperatures

Amman .....02/08

Aqaba .....08/16

Deserts .....00/10

Jordan Valley .....08/15

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 10, Aqaba 18 Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ramzi Mzawi .....894788

Dr. Bassam Karadsheli .....759200

Dr. Khaled Abdo .....657129

Dr. Khalid Ma'adi .....661144

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al-Astana pharmacy .....637055

Al-Salam pharmacy .....636730

Yaacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660

Nairookh pharmacy .....623672

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Gazi Ta'ameh .....250080

Al-Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al-Lawzi .....989601

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 657111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 657777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department 650321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .....15615

Electric Power Company .....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Aila Intl. Airport 08-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6

Akileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafhas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahik, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3

Al-Bashir, .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/15

Queen Aila Hospital .....602240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....09983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09986732



Egypt's players leaders have a danger of religious "Satan worshipping" al-Hamdi Zaqzaki said Wednesday in their Friday sermon. He said, according to Al-Hamdi, the children against Satanism and those who are protected from those who are not. He said, "Satanism is a danger to our youth and our society. We must warn them against it. Satanism is a danger to our youth and our society. We must warn them against it. Satanism is a danger to our youth and our society. We must warn them against it."

Egyptian authorities have released a young man in prison on the charge of "Satan worshipping". The man, who was arrested in 1995, was released after he repented. He was released after he repented. He was released after he repented.

An editor released on bail

authorities have released on bail a young man in prison on the charge of "Satan worshipping". The man, who was arrested in 1995, was released after he repented. He was released after he repented. He was released after he repented.

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# Home News

## Ministerial committee resolves to amend JEA allowances

By Ghalia Alni  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special ministerial committee Wednesday resolved to amend the basic salary allowances of the Jordan Engineers' Association (JEA) members in accordance with a memorandum of understanding reached with the JEA last October.

According to Jordan News Agency, Petra, the committee's decision will be sent to the Cabinet for approval on Tuesday.

JEA Vice President Husni Abu Ghida described the decision as "a positive move which should have been taken earlier."

"We thank the committee for this initiative, but we need the government to follow through," Mr. Abu Ghida said.

The engineers employed in the public sector were asked for an increase of 150 per cent in their basic monthly salary which currently stands at JD 150.

JEA members were also demanding the promotion of engineers to higher levels on the public sector employee scale.

Public sector employees are rated on a scale of 1-10. The lowest being 10, the highest one.

Mr. Abu Ghida lamented that previous to 1988, a recently graduated engineer could begin his/her career as a public employee from grade five, while today these engineers are hired as sixth grade employees with a consequent loss in benefits and allowances.

"The engineers' income diminished by 30 to 40 per cent since 1988, a time when the Jordanian dinar equalled three dollars," Mr. Abu Ghida said.

Currently the dinar stands at approximately \$1.40.

But, Mr. Abu Ghida added, the ministerial committee has not yet studied all points of the memorandum of understanding which stipulates that engineers will advance to higher levels on the public sector employee scale.

"The government has promised to submit amendments to the current by-laws," regulating the allowances for public sector engineers within three months dating from last October," Mr. Abu Ghida said.

He added that the "government has not even discussed the engineers' allowances amendment with JEA members," noting that no specific figures from Wednesday's meeting were made available to

them.

Mr. Abu Ghida said that about 1,500 engineers of the 36,000 JEA members will meet on Thursday to discuss "the serious measures" the members will take if the government fails to heed their demands.

"We will begin by staging sit-ins and organise a protest march if the government does not meet all our demands," he said.

Mr. Abu Ghida said that the JEA is still waiting for the government to call for a joint meeting to discuss all of these issues.

"We are ready to meet with the government at any time. But it should fulfil its prior stated commitments," he added.

The JEA had threatened to organise a strike in October if the government did not respond positively to their demands.

But JEA members later called off the strike after they signed the memorandum of understanding which was described by members as "a declaration of intent rather than a real agreement."

They had told the Jordan Times that no specific figures whatsoever were mentioned in the text of the agreement and the quantity of the raise in the basic salary were not specified.

## Editor of weekly tabloid released on bail

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Yousef Gheishan, the editor-in-chief of the weekly satiric tabloid *Abad Rabbo*, who was ordered detained on Tuesday on charges of slander, was released on bail the following day, his attorney said.

Mr. Gheishan was ordered detained by Amman Prosecutor Jamal Zou'bi after Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali and Islamist Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Kilani filed a lawsuit against the newspaper.

"The Court of Appeals accepted our request to free Mr. Gheishan on a JD 400 bail," said Defence Lawyer Habis Shbouh.

He told the Jordan Times that the court had based its decision to set Mr. Gheishan on bail as "his release will not interfere with the course of investigations and is not a threat to national security."

Mr. Gheishan was arrested in his Madaba home at 11:30 p.m. on charges of slander and tarnishing another individual's image and dignity.

Last week, responsible editor for the same newspaper, Omar Nadi, was also ordered detained by the Amman prosecutor on the same charges.

Nadi spent three days in "prison" before being released on bail.

Messrs. Gheishan and Nadi's detention came following the respective appearances in two separate newspaper issues of a caricature which described Deputy Kilani as a "by-product" and a news item accusing the minister of public works of stealing cars.

During his interrogation by the prosecutor, Mr. Nadi claimed he was on sick leave when the items were published in the newspaper.

Mr. Gheishan, on the other hand, denied being editor-in-chief of the newspaper, when interrogated, and told Prosecutor Zou'bi that he was only a journalist.

Both journalists pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Mr. Zou'bi told the Jordan Times Wednesday that he is planning to refer both editors to court "to determine who was the editor in chief when the slanderous news items were published."

On Wednesday, Reporters Sans Frontières, a Paris-based group which promotes journalists' rights world-wide, appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to defend press freedoms and protested against the detention of Mr. Gheishan.

The organisation maintained that 12 journalists were arrested in Jordan in 1996 and expressed concerns "particularly as Jordan has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19, which guarantees the right to freedom of information."

On Monday, the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Council, which strongly opposes the detention of any journalist, issued a strong warning of permanent expulsion from the association due to the performance of some weekly tabloids.

"Some of these weeklies are not abiding by press ethics and are tarnishing our culture, values and tradition and they are abusing press freedoms in a scandalous manner," the JPA statement said.

Last week, during a Parliament session, several deputies also criticised the contents of some weeklies, describing their news items as indecent and unethical in their approach.

## Ministry withdraws 'advance permission' circular

By Maria Bizri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Culture Wednesday withdrew a controversial circular which it released earlier this month, requiring that all cultural activities in the Kingdom obtain prior ministry approval.

The decision to withdraw the circular was taken by acting Minister of Culture and Minister of Youth Daoudieh.

Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah is on an official visit to Egypt.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the decision to prohibit cultural activities without prior approval was taken following a theatrical performance thought to be anti-religious.

They described the decision as taken at the ministry level and reversed on directives from the prime minister.

Dr. Qudah, on Jan. 6, dispatched a circular which stipulated that organisers of any cultural, scientific or artistic activity obtain advance written consent from the directors of their respective local cultural departments.

According to the directives, these directors were then obliged to examine the programme of the proposed activity, both in form and content, before official approval would be conceded and duly endorsed by the local governor.

The circular was retracted yesterday by Mr. Daoudieh, after a meeting with the Jordan Writers Association.

Ibrahim Absi, meeting, Mr. and Mr. Absi, the needs of the people as well as the cultural centres and of the nationalities in the Kingdom.

They agreed that cultural creativity and freedom of speech must go hand in hand.

Mr. Absi expressed his appreciation for the acting minister's role in encouraging the growth of an atmosphere conducive to the development of serious national culture.

In a press conference held last week, Dr. Qudah had stated that the circular was intended to "ensure coordination between the ministry's activities and the activities of different organisations, unions and cultural centres of the country."

He added that the ministry was "concerned with political culture and the level of awareness it creates among citizens," but that the ministry tended to "make a distinction between turning cultural organisations and associations into political parties and the creation of a certain level of political awareness among citizens through cultural activities."

The circular was justified by Dr. Qudah as being "merely administrative and organisational."

It had drawn bitter criticism from Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin and Al Dustour columnist George Haddad who charged that the ministry was attempting to repress intellectual activities.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ramadan charity campaign distributes items

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ramadan charity campaign organised by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development Wednesday continued distributing assistance in both the Amman and Madaba governorates. The higher committee, headed by HRH Princess Basma, extended assistance to 400 families on Wednesday. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi affirmed that the committee has drawn a plan to secure a fair distribution of such assistance to the needy in all governorates. According to Dr. Abbadi, the committee has distributed blankets, clothes and food to over 2,000 families since the month began.

### Irbid health departments report violations

IRBID (Petra) — According to health departments in the Irbid governorate, 361 food industries were closed in 1996 for violating health regulations and almost 1,100 factories were fined for similar violations.

### Royal academy releases publication on life of Jesus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Academy for Religious Studies released a new publication entitled "The Life of the Prophet Jesus" by Ibn Asaker Al-Dimashqi. The book is the work of researcher Suleiman Ali Murad and published by Dar Al-Shuruq in Amman. The book is a biography of Jesus Christ using the material of historian Al-Qaem Ali Ben Al-Hassan Bin Hibab, known as Ibn Asaker in his "History of Damascus," well-known among Arab historians. The book contains items taken from the Bible, Koran, Hadith and original sources. The researcher considers his biography suitable for Muslims to understand Christ's life and the state of Christianity during the period in which Ibn Asaker lived. The researcher used two original documents from the "History of Damascus," the first a Damascus library item and the second an Ahmed the Third library item from Istanbul.

## Palestinian, Jordanian police delegations discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Chief Lieutenant General Nasouh Muhiuddin and his Palestinian counterpart Major General Ghazi Jabali Wednesday held talks to promote bilateral cooperation between police forces. Major Gen. Jabali briefed the Jordanian police officials on perceived needs regarding the training of Palestinian cadres. Lieut. Gen. Muhiuddin reiterated Jordan's eagerness to extend assistance to the Palestinians. Maj. Gen. Jabali lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts as well as his support for the Palestinians. "King Hussein's historic and courageous stand is highly appreciated" by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians themselves," he said, adding that upon the King's directives Jordanian officials will initiate cooperation with the Palestinians, particularly in training Palestinian cadres. Maj. Gen. Jabali described Swaga Rehabilitation Centre as of the most developed in the world. He and his delegation left Amman following a three-day visit.

## Madaba schools to undergo upgrade

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will implement school construction and maintenance work in the Madaba governorate at a total cost of JD 2.5 million, according to Director of the Madaba Education Department Wajih Qasem. He maintained that the ministry will build nine model schools in various parts of the governorate at an estimated cost of JD 2 million. Dr. Qasem explained that the department's plan for 1997 envisages comprehensive maintenance for 10 schools at a total cost of JD 300,000. The plan also provides for the construction of sanitary units in eight schools at a cost of JD 200,000. The director stated that his department has provided school administrations with a specialised educational bulletin covering all technical and administrative aspects of educational management. He added that the plan envisages the intensification of supervisor visits to schools to assess administrative and technical situations and to remove any obstacles facing the educational process. Dr. Qasem described department plans to upgrade teacher performances through on-the-job training, including that of the new curriculum.

## Controversy arises over alleged extortion in Zarqa

By Sacha Baggili  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A fierce controversy has been sparked by accusations that Zarqa municipality employees are extorting money from shopowners in the city.

Zarqa Deputy Bassam Emmoush, a member of the Islamic Action Front, has stated in Parliament that extortion has played a role in dealings between citizens and the Zarqa municipality, from commercial to building licences.

In addition, complaints against the municipality have centred around claims that employees are demanding money from shopowners who wish to display merchandise on the pavements outside their shops.

When contacted by the Jordan Times, Mayor of Zarqa Mustafa Fayad declined to comment other than "if people really believe extortion is being practised by the municipality, then they can take their complaints to court."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, President of the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Taqi-Eddin said "I have not heard shopowners complain that municipality employees are practising

extortion. If such a problem exists, why don't people come here and tell us so that we can address it? Our doors are open."

New regulations concerning the display of goods on the pavements outside shops were established as a result of a meeting between the municipality and the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce several months ago.

According to Dr. Taqi-Eddin, the new regulations stipulate that each shopowner be authorised "a 30 cm allotted space outside their shops. This is the limit for any shopkeeper and is granted free of charge."

However, in interviews with traders around the city, the Jordan Times was told that money was still being collected by municipality employees in order that shopkeepers might display merchandise.

"Here is the receipt for a payment we made on Jan. 23," one shopkeeper said, requesting anonymity for fear of reprisal.

"Municipality employees come and collect money from us for displaying goods outside the shop. We don't know when they are going to come but we pay when asked. Last time, we paid JD 50 but sometimes [the sum is higher]," he added.

When asked by the Jordan Times if he was aware of the new regulations permitting "30 cm free of charge" the man responded, "Yes, we were told of this new rule but officials still demand money regardless of how much space our merchandise takes up on the pavement and if we don't pay they threaten to close our shop."

Indicating a vegetable shop exhibiting an array of goods on the pavement and clearly violating the "30 cm regulation" one trader asserted "the owner of that shop works at the municipality and so he takes up as much of the pavement as he wishes and he pays nothing."

Regulations concerning merchandise displays were initially established to solve problems caused by the expanding number of traders arriving in Zarqa to sell their goods on the pavements.

"In addition to obstructing pedestrians, such unlicensed traders were posing health risks by selling foods unfit for human consumption," Dr. Taqi-Eddin said.

This regulation also applied to shopkeepers. Later, the municipality endorsed a system of "donations" in which payments were made to the municipality if shopowners wished to use pavement space.

Subsequently, a complaint was made by a Zarqa shopowner that these donations were excessive and petitioned the Chamber of Commerce to remedy the situation.

"For this reason we initiated the meeting with the municipality and the '30 cm free of charge' arrangement was agreed upon," said Adnan Zahran, a representative of the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce.

In discussions, shopowners told the Jordan Times that the reason for silence amongst traders on this issue was a pervasive fear of reprisals from municipality employees.

"I wouldn't dare take a complaint to the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, municipality employees would probably shut my shop down if I did," another shopkeeper said also requesting anonymity.

According to a report in the Jan. 21st edition of Al-Sabeel weekly newspaper, journalists witnessed the closing of a shop. A municipality employee at the

scene told them that he could not state the reasons for the closure.

But the shopowner asserted that he had been asked to pay JD 1,500 in order for his shop to stay open this year.

However, Mr. Taqi-Eddin maintained that the municipality could not shut down any shop in Zarqa without a court order.

He also stated, "I have not heard of any recent closures in Zarqa."

Another Zarqa street vendor interviewed by the Jordan Times said that, according to a statement made by the Mayor of Zarqa Mustafa Fayad in an Arabic daily newspaper, he was permitted to continue his street sales during Ramadan, without paying a fee, but would have to halt this activity thereafter.

"But two days after Ramadan had begun, municipality employees approached me and demanded that I pay the JD 10 fee for selling goods on the pavement," he said.

Dr. Emmoush was unavailable for comment Wednesday regarding the consequences of his recent statements in Parliament.

(This article was compiled with the help of Zaid Khalaf.)

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Meteorology Wednesday predicted heavy rainfall and snow on Thursday evening and Friday, as a result of a cold air mass originating in North Europe.

Department sources said the cold mass will result in heavy rainfall in most parts of the country and snow in Ajloun, Sharah and Mu'ab heights on Thursday.

It warned of frost formation in the Jordan Valley area and called on farmers to take necessary measures to protect their crops.

## 'Cold air mass headed towards Kingdom'

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Meteorology Wednesday predicted heavy rainfall and snow on Thursday evening and Friday, as a result of a cold air mass originating in North Europe. Department sources said the cold mass will result in heavy rainfall in most parts of the country and snow in Ajloun, Sharah and Mu'ab heights on Thursday. It warned of frost formation in the Jordan Valley area and called on farmers to take necessary measures to protect their crops.

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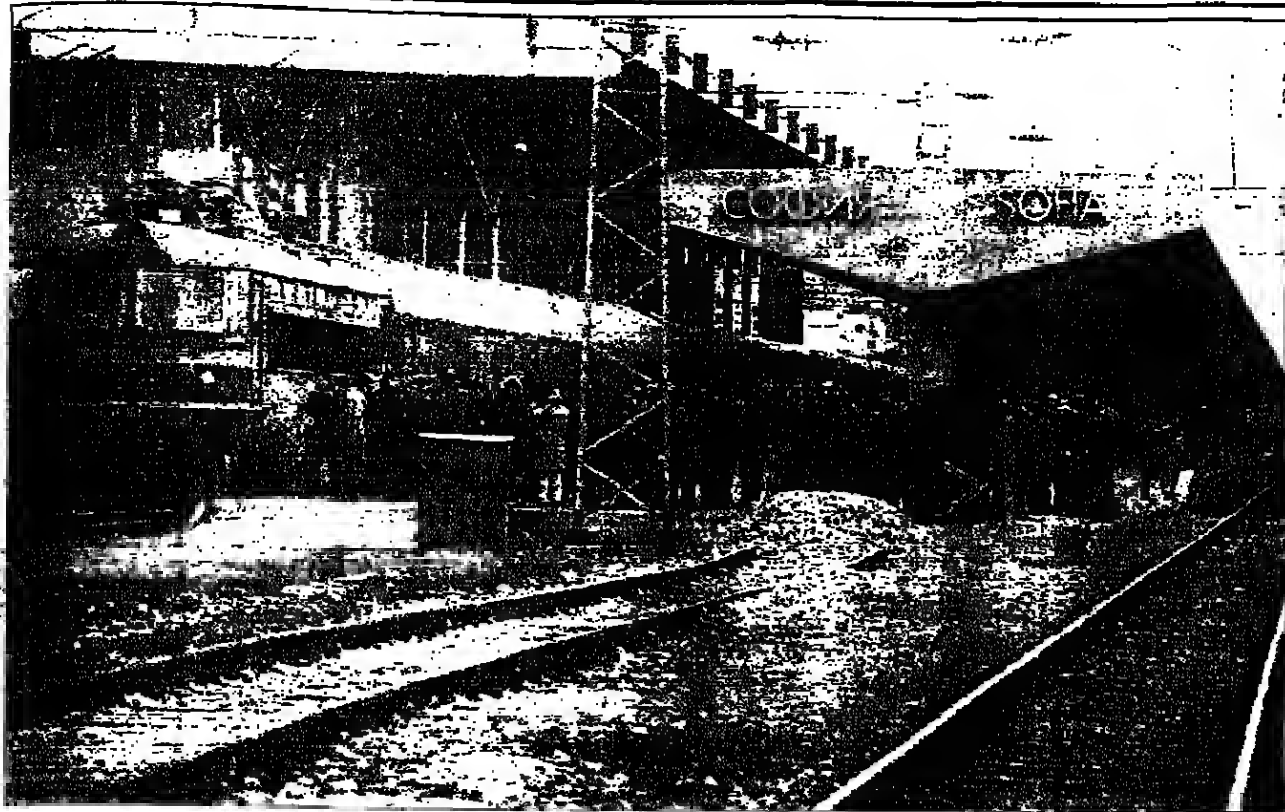
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A group of workers stand next to a stationary train at Sofia's main railway station during a one-hour strike Wednesday. Workers around Bulgaria kept up pressure on the ruling Socialists Wednesday with one-hour strikes and rallies to protest at the economic crisis and back opposition demands for early elections (Reuters photo)

## Strikes mark 24th day of Bulgarian protests

SOFIA (R) — Workers around Bulgaria kept up pressure on the ex-Communist ruling Socialists Wednesday with strikes and rallies to protest at the country's economic crisis and back opposition demands for early elections.

As anti-government protests reached their 24th consecutive day, national radio said miners blocked the main road between Sofia and the northern border town of Rousse with burning tyres and vehicles and held protest rallies at several mines.

Union officials said protesters also blocked the road to the Danube ferry at Vidin. One-hour strikes halted trains and affected schools and factories, but public transport ran normally in

Sofia and the airport was open.

Depositors queued outside banks to withdraw their savings and buy dollars before hyper-inflation erodes their value completely.

Wages have been increased in some key sectors to ward off strikes and compensate for inflation, forecast at 50 per cent for January alone.

"We were told that our wages were doubled but the increase won't come through for a month and by then who knows what the lev-dollar rate will be," said ticket seller Lilia Nikolova at Sofia's main station, where trains sounded their horns at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) to mark the start of their strike.

Church bells tolled in the

town of Doupnitsa, where a shoe factory stopped work for an hour.

The nine deputies of the Bulgarian Business Bloc walked out of parliament, condemning both the ruling party and the opposition for failing to tackle the crisis.

After failing to find a compromise between the warring political factions, President Petar Stoyanov Tuesday asked Nikolai Dobrev, the interior minister of the Socialist Party, to form a new government.

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) said it would suspend its boycott of the 240-seat parliament to try to stop Mr. Dobrev from winning approval for a government. Although the Socialists have an absolute majority, the

UDF hopes defections could stop Mr. Dobrev.

Under the constitution, Mr. Stoyanov had to give the mandate to the Socialists — parliament's biggest party and the caretaker government since Socialist Prime Minister Zhan Videnov resigned on Dec. 21.

The opposition wants an immediate general election, while the Socialists are proposing polls in the autumn, more than a year before their mandate expires in December 1998.

Sofia students plan a torchlight rally Wednesday evening and a contest to choose Miss Protest and Mr. Vagabond — critics of their daily rallies have dubbed them "mere vagabonds."

## French opposition forces emergency defence debate

PARIS (R) — The French government agreed under left-wing opposition pressure Tuesday to an emergency debate on a Franco-German joint defence concept after protests that a document had been leaked to everyone except parliament.

Last Friday the French daily Le Monde published extracts from the German version of the Joint Strategic Concept, approved at a Franco-German summit in Nuremberg, Germany, on Dec. 9.

The document, obtained by Reuters Tuesday, said French and German security interests had become inseparable, called for a dialogue on nuclear deterrence in a European defence policy and for consultation on intervention in international crises.

"Our security interests are more and more inseparable," the joint Franco-Ger-

man security and defence concept said.

The leak embarrassed the government, since President Jacques Chirac had promised that members of parliament would receive the document and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and European Union partners would be briefed on it before it was made public.

There were angry scenes in the National Assembly when Defence Minister Charles Millon acknowledged the document had been sent only to the speaker and the heads of the defence and foreign affairs committees.

Left-wing former Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement accused the government of selling out to Germany and NATO in a secret deal struck behind parliament's back.

Socialist floor leader Laurent Fabius, a former prime

minister, said it was disgraceful that the government should expect parliament to debate the future of national service after the abolition of conscription while withholding the document.

National Assembly President Philippe Seguin said Prime Minister Alain Juppe had promised the text would be sent to deputies Tuesday and the government would make a statement to parliament Wednesday, followed by a debate.

But that failed to calm the opposition, which refused to debate the National Service Bill until it had had time to study the Franco-German document.

The debate began more than two hours late and was adjourned after an opening statement from Mr. Millon and a report from the Parliamentary Defence Committee.

The Foreign Ministry said

it expected to officially release the document to the media on Jan. 30 after pre-empting it to EU partners Tuesday and to NATO allies on Jan. 29.

The document stressed France and Germany would conduct a "concerted defence policy." The two countries committed themselves to "consultation about the degree of intervention aimed at preventing or settling a crisis."

The text stressed that the first duty of French and German forces was to NATO and European allies.

"Our entire conventional forces, including Rapid Reaction Forces, are primarily at the service of the defence of our allies in the framework of obligations resulting from the Brussels and Washington treaties," it said, referring to the founding agreements of the Western European Union and NATO.

## Milosevic sees dialogue to end crisis — envoy

BELGRADE (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic sees dialogue as a way to end a crisis over election fraud and agrees the use of force is no solution, a Russian envoy said Wednesday.

Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who met Mr. Milosevic Tuesday, said they agreed the 10-week impasse over opposition demands for the reinstatement of annulled electoral victories was an internal affair of Serbia, which has close links to Russia.

Mr. Ivanov, who also talked to leaders of the opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition, said it was not his role to mediate but to pass on Russia's "worries regarding the present situation."

"Milosevic assured us that proposals on ways out of the crisis will be formulated soon and will express the political will for dialogue with all political forces in the country, as that is in the best interests for the future of Yugoslavia," Mr. Ivanov told a news conference at the Russian embassy.

He said Mr. Milosevic, who has made virtually

no public statements on the election crisis, had told him there were other recommendations within a report by Europe's main security body, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Its main conclusion was that the Zajedno victories should be reinstated immediately. "There is a recommendation that a way out is possible through open and sincere dialogue with all political forces in the country and it says only Serbs can find the solution for it, with the help of the OSCE if it is asked for," Mr. Ivanov said.

Zajedno leaders have rejected dialogue or any negotiations with the government over their electoral victories in 14 cities, which were declared valid by an OSCE mission headed by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The government annulled the outcome over alleged "irregularities," sparking a protest movement that has swept Serbia and posed the most serious challenge to the authoritari-

an Milosevic in his 10 years in power.

Temper have frayed in recent weeks with police forced to stand guard over demonstrations night after night, clubbing some demonstrators, but Mr. Ivanov said Mr. Milosevic and Zajedno agreed force would not resolve the impasse.

"Both the authorities and opposition realise there is no solution with the use of force and in that respect they express great restraint and do not go for provocations," Mr. Ivanov said.

He said there was a realisation that a "prolonging of the crisis is to the detriment of both sides because it hurts the interests of Yugoslavia." He said both sides also opposed the reintroduction of economic sanctions which were slapped on Yugoslavia during the Bosnian war and would be "harmful to the already ailing economy."

"All of this gives room for hope that in the near future healthy reason will prevail and that dialogue will be established to find a way out of the crisis," he said.

Mr. Ivanov praised the role of Serbian students, who have held demonstrations in support of Zajedno but say their aim is to support democracy rather than any political party.

"They are serious young people who love their country without any extreme stands. They came out with concrete and clear demands to live in an independent, democratic and prosperous state," Mr. Ivanov said.

He also criticised European powers for trying to influence Serbian affairs while denying it membership of pan-European bodies such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

He said Serbia, through membership of such organisations, would be obliged to observe certain principles. "But if they do not allow the country to become a member and demand it respect all the principles, then it is another issue."

# Maskhadov is on track to become Chechen president

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Aslan Maskhadov, the guerrilla leader who wants Russia and the world to recognise Chechen independence, looked poised Wednesday for a convincing win in his country's presidential election.

His spokesman Mayerbek Vachagayev told reporters that preliminary results from 53 of the mountainous region's 63 electoral districts gave Maskhadov nearly 65 per cent of the vote, well ahead of his nearest rival Shamil Basayev.

Mr. Vachagayev said Commander Basayev, a hardline rebel regarded in Moscow as a terrorist, had won 24 per cent of the vote and acting President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev had won 10 per cent.

A Central Election Commission official declined to comment on the results as the count was still underway.

In Moscow Kremlin press spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told ITAR-TASS news agency Moscow had no grounds to question the legitimacy of Monday's election but he reiterated Russian opposition to Chechen independence.

Mr. Maskhadov, a former Soviet artillery colonel, has already claimed victory and has made clear that he will not row back from his calls for international recognition of Chechnya.

"We determined in 1991 that Chechnya was an independent state," said the geotly spoken Maskhadov Tuesday.

"All that remains is for other countries, including Russia, to recognise that. This can be achieved by political means," he said, calling on Moscow to ignore a five-year moratorium agreed in last year's peace deal and start negotiating sovereignty now.

In comments carried by Interfax News Agency Wednesday he took an even harder line.

"Many consider that I am a man of compromise, that I am ready for any negotiations with Russia... But this is not so," Interfax quoted him as saying. "The West will not open its doors to us straight away but we will win in this affair with the same courage that won us the war."

On Tuesday President Boris Yeltsin welcomed the initial poll returns, saying they gave a good chance for further peace talks.

Mr. Maskhadov is regarded in Moscow as a moderate pragmatist, despite his secessionist rhetoric.

Mr. Yeltsin sent troops into the southern region in December 1994 to crush its secessionist bid. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, died during 21 months of fighting that ended with a peace deal last August.

Wednesday Russia's former security chief Alexander Lebed, who signed the peace accord for Moscow, told Ekho Moskvy radio Mr. Maskhadov would conduct a "sensible, balanced policy," adding: "I have never had grounds to doubt Mas-

khadov's worthiness."

Russia also believes it still holds many strong cards, and may in many ways be in a better bargaining position now it has pulled its troops out of the unwinnable war on Chechnya's soil.

As Mr. Maskhadov himself admitted Tuesday: "Our economic situation is woe-full... Nearly everything has been destroyed."

The silver-haired commander demanded reparations from Russia and said he planned to negotiate a share of revenues from lucrative Russian oil pipelines that cross Chechen territory.

Moscow has promised cash for reconstruction. Analysts say one of its main negotiators, businessman and deputy Security Council Secretary Boris Berezovsky, has played the "oil card" heavily, offering a share of profits to persuade the Chechens to stay inside Russia.

Chechnya, surrounded on three sides by the Russian Federation and with its back to the soaring Caucasus Mountains, may find it hard to win real support, even in the Muslim World, in view of Moscow's threat to retaliate by severing ties with any country that acknowledges Chechen sovereignty.

In Strasbourg, France, a Council of Europe parliamentary observer team Wednesday strongly praised the presidential elections in Chechnya, one calling the poll "democracy against a backdrop of ruins."

"We were stunned by the order and discipline demon-

strated by this people who had been given the right to vote," Ernst Muehleman, a Swiss member of the council's parliamentary assembly, told a news conference.

"What we saw was democracy against a backdrop of ruins," said Poland's Tadeusz Iwinski, vice-president of the parliamentary mission.

Mr. Muehleman said everything was now ready for the launch of third phase of a ceasefire agreement between Russia and the breakaway region — a political dialogue on its constitutional status.

"We are waiting for Aslan Maskhadov's first declaration to confirm this," Mr. Muehleman said.

Meanwhile, Commander Basayev told AFP Wednesday that he would not work alongside the new Chechen president, but neither would he oppose him.

"There won't be any confrontation between the candidates. We fought alongside each other against Russian aggression and we have a common goal — Chechnya's independence," Commander Basayev said.

"I still don't know what I'll do, but I don't like Maskhadov's aides and I cannot work with such people," he added after Mr. Maskhadov had offered to work with the young field commander.

"If I accept this offer there will be constant disputes, and nobody needs that now. I don't want to prevent Maskhadov implementing his programme."

## S. Koreans start anti-nuclear hunger strike in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Six South Korean anti-nuclear activists began a planned five-day hunger strike in Taipei Wednesday to pressure Taiwan to cancel a controversial deal to ship nuclear waste to Taiwan's North Korea.

The activists from Green Korea, an independent environment group in South Korea, and local anti-nuclear groups had minor clashes with Taiwan Power Co-workers when the protesters tried to take their complaints into the state utility's headquarters.

No one was injured. "Rad waste — don't export. Don't make," read a banner held by the South Korean activists.

Under a Jan. 11 contract, Taipower can ship up to 200,000 barrels of nuclear waste to impoverished and food-strapped North Korea. Unconfirmed media reports have said Taipower will pay North Korea \$1.150 per barrel.

The Taiwan government is trying to solve its mounting waste problem by profiting from the serious famine in North Korea. Green Korea leader Jang Won said in a prepared statement.

"For people seeking environmental justice, such exports are an immoral form of environmental terrorism that endanger not only the population of North Korea, but that of the entire northeast Asian region," Mr. Jang said.

Mr. Jang shaved his head in protest and said his group was starting a five-day hunger strike.

Taipower workers, saying South Korea had no right to interfere in what they called a legitimate business deal between Taipei and Pyongyang, blocked Taipower's entrance and shouted: "Go back" and "Koreans get out."

"If they want to protest, they should have protested in their own country. They should not have come to Taipower," Yao Chiang-Lin, Taipower's union chairman, told reporters.

## Ugandan troops reportedly push into Zaire to back rebels

KINSHASA (AFP) — Zairean rebels in the east of the country are receiving support from several thousand Ugandan troops as well as from mercenaries from other African countries, the Zairean army said Wednesday.

In a statement, the army's headquarters said that several thousand Ugandan troops had pushed into eastern Zaire to back up the Tutsi rebels, while others were deployed at the border.

It added that the rebels, who drove Zairean government forces out of two eastern provinces last year, were also receiving backing from mercenaries from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia.

According to the statement, "two to three thousand" were stationed on the Walikale-Kisangani axis in Haut-Zaire, while an equal number of Ugandan troops were deployed in Zaire some 300 kilometres further north, near the border with Uganda.

Furthermore, some 2,000 Ugandan troops massed on the border were heading for

the Zairean town of Isiro, some 250 kilometres west of the Ugandan border, the statement said.

It added that an Ugandan brigade equipped with Soviet SA-14 missiles was stationed in Beni, near the Zairean-Ugandan border, and that Ugandan soldiers were "preparing to cross (the border-lake) Mobutu."

Haut Zaire is some 300 kilometres north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu. The Tutsi rebels, headed by Laurent-Desire Kabila, control most of North and South Kivu. The statement noted the presence of some 2,000 Ugandan troops in South Kivu.

Kinshasa has repeatedly accused its eastern neighbours Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda of aiding the rebels in the east of the country. All three have denied the charges, although Rwanda has acknowledged cross-border artillery exchanges with Zairean troops and a brief incursion.

Although the statement did not make mention of any Rwandan troops, it

stressed that "the Zairean Armed Forces are fighting against several armies: Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and mercenaries from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia."

Army officials denounced what they considered as a "vast international plot" in which "African countries and their Western allies are fully implicated."

In a separate development, Belgium denounced Tuesday the alleged presence of thousands of Rwandan troops in Zaire and reiterated its support for the territorial integrity of its former colony.

Uganda Wednesday denied it had sent several thousand troops into eastern Zaire terming latest Zairean allegations false.

"It is absolute falsehood. It is in fact laughable that we would be so stupid as to openly send troops into Zaire. Even the geographical locations mentioned do not make sense," Hope Kiwengere, spokeswoman for President Yoweri Museveni, told Reuters by telephone from Kampala.

## Fire kills 3 in Bombay office block

BOMBAY (R) — Three people died and nearly 30 were rescued from a fire on the upper floors of a 25-storey building in India's financial capital Bombay Wednesday, officials said.

The blaze began at Express Towers, in the prestigious Nariman Point business district, which houses the Indian Express newspaper on the ground and first

floor, and a number of domestic and multi-national companies and banks.

"Three people died in a room on the twenty-second floor that had been locked on the inside," city official Shridhar Joshi told Reuters.

Mr. Joshi said the three men were employees of Pfizer Ltd, a U.S.-based pharmaceutical company. One body of an Indian employee

of Pfizer had been identified, he added. The other two bodies have yet to be identified.

A fire control room official said firefighters had put out the flames on the twenty-first floor, where the blaze apparently started, and had nearly extinguished the fire on the higher levels.

Other Pfizer employees told Reuters how they fled the blaze.

# hurghada JD 265

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## A summit for Jerusalem

A PALESTINIAN official has revealed recently that contacts are under way to hold an Arab summit on occupied Jerusalem. Faisal Al Hussein, the Palestinian official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), has proposed that the agenda of the called-for summit cover recent Israeli encroachments on East Jerusalem including Jewish settlements in and around the Arab city, the recent transfer of official Israeli offices to the heart of the Arab sector of Jerusalem and the continuous excavations near the Al Aqsa Mosque.

As urgent as all these agenda issues are, we believe that the status of East Jerusalem should top all other considerations. If and when the Arab capitals can agree on convening a summit on Jerusalem, the political future of the Holy City should be on the top of their agenda. This is a particularly propitious time for the Arab and Muslim worlds to get their act together on Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to visit Pope John Paul II next week in a bid to win the understanding and support of the Holy See to his posture on Jerusalem. Mr. Netanyahu has been quoted as telling Rome's II Messaggero Tuesday that he will confirm his government's unwavering stance on Jerusalem to the Pontiff as a united city under the sole sovereignty of Israel, even though the Israeli leader will offer assurances to the Vatican about religious rights over the holy sites and shrines.

Nothing short of a clear and united Arab stand on Jerusalem can deter Mr. Netanyahu and abort his policies on the Holy City. The Palestinian side cannot alone extricate an honourable solution to the thorny and emotionally-charged issue of Jerusalem. Time is fast approaching when the final status talks between Israel and the PNA will begin. With the main opposition Labour Party in Israel in total agreement with the Likud-led government on the future of the city, there is no way that the Palestinians alone can win the race for controlling Arab Jerusalem. Against this backdrop, there can be no alternative to holding an urgent Arab summit to be followed by an Islamic summit to serv notice to Israel that the future of Jerusalem is not only a Palestinian concern but, an Islamic and Arab concern as well.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily attacked the so-called document prepared by the Israeli Labour and Likud parties on the future of the peace process and the fate of the Palestinians. The document considered the Palestinian lands as part of the land of Israel and both Likud and Labour expressed their views in this document in a manner that clearly reflects their own party interest and not that of the Palestinian people, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The document calls for the Jewish settlements in the Arab territories to remain in place and under Israeli sovereignty, but this particular issue exposes the double standard of the Labour Party whose leaders have repeatedly declared they do not object to the creation of a Palestinian state on the Arab lands of Palestine, noted the writer. He said that this attitude on the part of the Labour Party shows that its leaders' statements, in which they claim their desire to have peace, are merely meant to mislead public opinion into believing that the Jewish state is intent on attaining a comprehensive peace. The document, added the writer, consecrates the actual perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and does not open the way for any settlement on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

YASSER ZAATREH, a writer for Al Dustour, discussed the one-person, one-vote election system in Jordan in light of the last parliament session which consecrated this voting system as the only feasible one for Jordan. He said that the government can claim victory for parliament's approval of its stand, but this does not mean that only the opposition parties and unions were objecting to this system. The writer claimed that this system is rejected by different political groups that represent the majority of people of different origins and affiliations as it is not fair and does not cater to the requirements of democracy. There is not a single government around the world that applies this system and it is being applied here with the sole purpose of reducing the influence of the opposition to the government over any issue, added the writer. He said that the government should realise that the presence of opposition is to the benefit of the country and the cause of justice and that it should continue to respect its views vis-à-vis various issues, including the call for the change of the one-person, one-vote system.

## The View from Academia

## Specialisations in the context of the times

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

UNTIL NOW many of our universities frown at students' involvement with more than one academic discipline. While ten or fifteen years ago students were encouraged to pursue at least a minor in addition to the subject they majored in, today most students are discouraged from pursuing a minor outside their speciality. Furthermore, students are also discouraged, and in many cases prevented from, pursuing higher studies in a discipline different from what they have studied as undergraduates. Thus, if you have majored in history as an undergraduate, you have to stick to history (and history only) in your master or doctorate programme.

As a matter of fact, many of our universities will refuse to hire a faculty member whose speciality has not been consistent (i.e. one and the same) in the three higher degrees, except under strict or "special" circumstances. Until now, also, many of our universities (officials and faculty members) are staunch supporters of the deficit yearly system (as opposed to the present credit-hour system) in which all students admitted in any speciality for any particular year spent the four years together studying the same subject.

Several reasons are given for such preference. Most of the reasons, however, boil down to the logic (which is not as convincing as it sounds to those who believe in it) that the more courses one takes in one subject the better qualified one is. Unlike many universities in many parts of the world, we are fascinated by (at times even obsessed with) graduating specialists with undergraduate degrees in nearly all disciplines. Hence the emphasis on the quantity of courses in single fields of specialisation. In addition, there is a widespread sense that our undergraduate students are "weak" in nearly all the subjects they specialise in, and the more courses they are required to take the better. At times, their "weakness" is perceived (falsely, I believe) to be the result of the shift from the yearly system to the credit-hour system. What this means is that if you allow students to pursue a minor unrelated to their major or to pursue a dou-

ble major, this will make the already weak students weaker.

I believe there is a great deal of exaggeration, and perhaps even falsehood, in our pursuit of purity or expertise. First of all, who says that students with undergraduate degrees are supposed to graduate as experts in the fields of their speciality? What is the function, then, of the master and PhD programmes? Second, who says that the more courses we give students in any particular subject the more qualified they become? Many students get bored with studying more of the same thing, just as eating mango day after day can be boring.

What I wish, however, to focus on a little more carefully here is the matter of qualification. Who says that the more command or competence one has in one speciality the more qualified one is? Such an assumption may have been true some decades ago, and it may be true when it comes to some narrow specialisations, but I do not think that it is true as a general rule. We are living in a constantly changing and more demanding world. Individuals in today's world, at various levels of hierarchy and in various spheres, are expected to know as much about the world as possible. The more disciplines one is familiar with the better.

There is, first of all, the idea of the all-roundedness of individuals. What happens to it when we keep stressing the purity of specialisation? What happens is what we see in our part of the world, people knowing something about one thing, and nothing about other things.

But the matter goes way beyond well-roundedness or all-roundedness. The issue here is empowerment. We live in a world in which unemployment is a fact of life and individuals may not easily find jobs in their specialities. What should they do then? Clearly, if they have specialised in one subject, it is going to be difficult for them to get into other things. Conversely, it is easier for them to go into other fields when they have had some training in more than one discipline.

At times people who are employed may be called upon at times to do things outside the realm of their single speciality. Also, people change jobs several times in the course of their lives.

The other day I read a story in "The Chronicle of Higher Education" (Nov. 22, 1996, A7) about a professor of political science at the University of San Diego, Daniel H. Wolf, who invented a mine-clearing device. At the beginning, I was somewhat surprised. A professor of political science inventing a machine? Machines are supposed to be invented by scientists, engineers, etc.

The feature story dispels the mystery, Professor Wolf, who specialises now in international-border regions and who has been recently bothered by the devastation that mines bring into our world upon the conclusion of wars, drew on his background in the undergraduate days in architectural engineering and on his life-long hobby in mechanics to invent a machine which helps clear up the mines as soon as border conflicts come to an end. He did invent an effective machine.

The story is self-telling and it is illustrative of the point we are trying to make: you never know in today's complex world when your knowledge of other disciplines comes in handy.

I honestly believe that we put our students at a great disadvantage when we do not allow them in the undergraduate days to get acquainted with more than one discipline and when we ask them to stick to the same discipline when they pursue their higher studies. Students at excellent universities worldwide nearly all diversify their specialities, at times combining disciplines (such as political science and architecture, as in the story above) which may not look harmonious enough to combine.

I believe that we should allow our own students to diversify their specialities. The times dictate and presuppose it. The University of Jordan is taking important steps in this direction. This is very positive and courageous.

## If Israel exists, then so does Palestine

By John V. Whitbeck

AN EXCRUCIATINGLY long and painful labour has finally given birth to a Hebron agreement in which Benjamin Netanyahu's government has essentially agreed to do in 1997 what Israel was legally obligated to do in March 1996, pursuant to an agreement solemnly signed in Washington in September 1995. These negotiations have demonstrated that under the present Israeli government, backsliding from agreements already signed is far more likely than any genuine progress toward peace.

Fortunately, there is one giant step towards peace that the Palestinians and the international community can now take together, without Israel's prior consent. They can dispel the dangerous illusions that the Palestinian lands conquered by Israel in 1967 are "disputed" rather than occupied, that Palestinian statehood is within Israel's power to grant or deny, and that the "Palestinian Authority" is or has ever been anything but a transparent euphemism for the state of Palestine.

There has long been a strange, other-worldly quality to the veil of words drawn across the face of Palestinian statehood. Prime Minister Netanyahu pledged to his Likud Party's congress last September that "you can dream every night and you will still wake up every morning and see: There is no Palestinian state, there is not and there will not be a Palestinian state." In fact, the state of Palestine already exists, and Palestinian statehood is not even an issue in the "permanent status" negotiations that formally began last

May and which, according to the Declaration of Principles signed in September 1993, must reach an agreement not later than May 1999.

According to the Declaration of Principles, the issues to be covered during permanent status negotiations are "Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations with other neighbours, and other issues of common interest." Palestinian statehood is not mentioned, but the references to "borders" and "other neighbours" would make no sense except in the context of an agreement between states. Israel's eventual formal acceptance of Palestinian statehood is clearly implicit in the terms of the Declaration of Principles, but, as a matter of international law, Israel's prior acceptance is not an essential pre-condition for the state of Palestine to exist.

While extending diplomatic recognition to foreign states lies within the discretion of each sovereign state, there are four customary criteria for sovereign statehood: a defined territory over which sovereignty is not seriously contested by any other state; a permanent population; the ability and willingness of the state to discharge international and treaty obligations, and effective control over the state's territory and population. Judged by these criteria, the state of Palestine is on at least as firm a legal footing as the state of Israel.

While Israel has never defined its ultimate borders, the state of Palestine has effectively done so. They encompass only that portion of historical Palestine occupied by Israel during the 1967 war. Sovereignty over expanded East Jerusalem is

explicitly contested, even though, after nearly three decades, none of the world's other 192 sovereign states has recognised Israel's claim to sovereignty. However, the sovereignty of the state of Palestine over the Gaza Strip and the rest of the West Bank is uncontested.

**"Israel's eventual formal acceptance of Palestinian statehood is clearly implicit in the terms of the Declaration of Principles, but, as a matter of international law, Israel's prior acceptance is not an essential pre-condition for the state of Palestine to exist."**

Israel has never dared even to purport to annex these territories. Jordan renounced all claims to the West Bank in favour of the Palestinians in July 1988. While Egypt administered the Gaza Strip for 19 years, it never asserted sovereignty over it. Since November 1988, when Palestinian statehood was formally proclaimed by the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers, the only state asserting sovereignty over those portions of historical Palestine that Israel conquered in 1967 (aside from expanded East Jerusalem) has been the state of Palestine, a state recognised

as such by 124 other states encompassing the vast majority of mankind.

The permanence of Palestine's population is not in question. The state's ability and willingness to discharge international and treaty obligations has been demonstrated by its establishment of diplomatic relations with a majority of the world's other sovereign states and by its membership in various international organisations.

The weak link in Palestine's claim to already exist as a state was, until recently, the fourth criterion, "effective control." When the state was proclaimed, its entire territory was under the military occupation of another sovereign state. Now, however, a Palestinian executive and legislature (democratically elected with the enthusiastic approval of the international community), Palestinian ministries and courts, and substantial Palestinian security forces exercise "effective control" over a portion of Palestinian territory in which the great majority of the state's population lives. It can no longer be seriously argued that Palestine's claim to exist falls at the fourth and final hurdle.

While drawing a veil labelled "Palestinian Authority" across the face of the state may once have been necessary to the advancement of peace, this is clearly no longer the case. Polls show that a majority of Israelis are now willing to accept a Palestinian state. Indeed, in mid-December, Mr. Netanyahu's chief adviser and spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, announced in a Jerusalem Post interview that his prime minister could accept a Palestinian state if Israel's security needs were adequately assured. This stunning

reversal of positions elicited neither a prime ministerial correction nor any significant public outrage.

Surely the time has now come for the Palestinian leadership to drop the veil and assert that the state of Palestine exists on the soil of Palestine, and for the state of Palestine to apply to upgrade its status at the U.N. from observer to member state.

If Palestine were to become a member state of the U.N., even the Netanyahu government would have no choice but to recognise that the Earth is not flat and to negotiate seriously on how to structure the relationship between the two states in the mutual interests of their peoples. Even if the U.S. dared to veto Palestinian membership, the focus of attention would have been effectively shifted from the realm of brute force (where Palestine is extremely weak) to the terrain of international law (where Palestine is extraordinarily

strong).

Now that the Palestinian national movement has established a firm foothold of "effective control" on the soil of Palestine, it is on the terrain of international law and international legitimacy that Palestine should and must pursue its struggle for peace with some measure of justice. Significant progress on this terrain could give Palestinians the confidence, pride and patience to resist a desperate, self-destructive return to violence and to wait out a frustratingly prolonged period of minimal gains on the ground.

Palestinian membership of the U.N. would make Middle East peace a question of when, not whether. It is an opportunity which can and must be seized.

The writer is an international lawyer based in Paris. The above article is reprinted from the Independent.

## LETTERS

## Relaying wrong images

To the Editor:

I HAVE been reading Jordan Times for five years now, and I can say it is an old friend of mine. So it is to you that I address my letter, hoping I will be helped to understand.

Actually the question in my letter is addressed to the director of Jordan Television regarding the series "Abu Al Araf" that I was watching on Jan. 30, 1997, episode 11.

I understand that in this episode they were addressing some problems in the Jordanian society. In that particular episode, the issue was marriage to foreigners.

I believe that you cannot solve a problem for the majority and create one for the minority. I am included in this minority because I am a foreigner. I am married to a Jordanian and I have three children. I have been living in Jordan since 1991.

But going back to the series on the said day, after (breakfast) and after watching the said episode, my sons started asking me questions that I could not answer, like, for instance: "Are foreign women cheap, are they bad or is it a big shame to be married to one of them?"

How can I be comfortable with my children living in a society with such ideas about their parents?

There are many Jordanians, men and women, living in my country. Nobody makes them feel the way I felt through the mass-media.

So I would address a general question: "If you were treated in a foreign country the way I am treated in yours, how would you feel?"

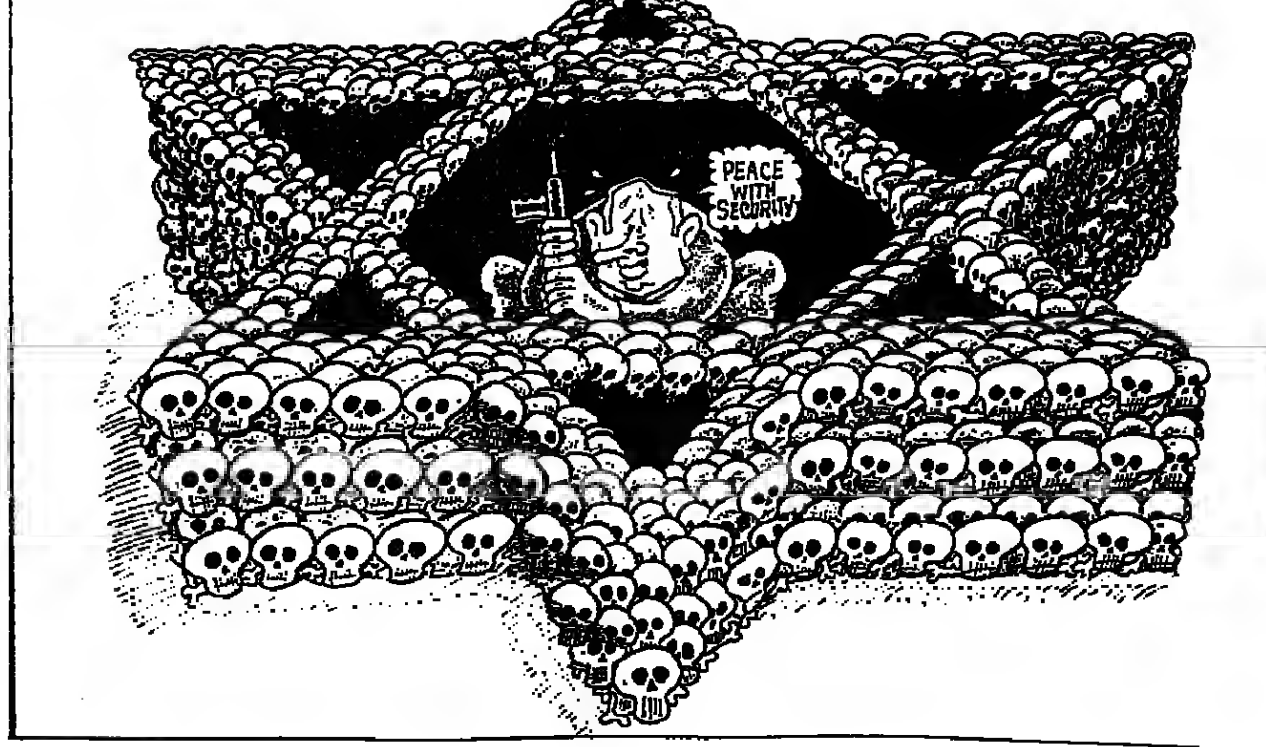
Can somebody give my children and me an answer to this?

I would particularly appreciate an answer from the director of Jordan Television, from producers, writers and actors.

Ciuchi Antonela, Salt.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

M. KAHIL



Wee

## FORWARD CONTENT

...the future of the peace process and the fate of the Palestinians. The document considered the Palestinian lands as part of the land of Israel and both Likud and Labour expressed their views in this document in a manner that clearly reflects their own party interest and not that of the Palestinian people, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The document calls for the Jewish settlements in the Arab territories to remain in place and under Israeli sovereignty, but this particular issue exposes the double standard of the Labour Party whose leaders have repeatedly declared they do not object to the creation of a Palestinian state on the Arab lands of Palestine, noted the writer. He said that this attitude on the part of the Labour Party shows that its leaders' statements, in which they claim their desire to have peace, are merely meant to mislead public opinion into believing that the Jewish state is intent on attaining a comprehensive peace. The document, added the writer, consecrates the actual perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and does not open the way for any settlement on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

The Middle East: 2000 years of Christianity to the present.

By David Lewis

William and Nicholson, London

All those who are familiar with the past 60 years of the Middle East will find it difficult to read the book "The Middle East: 2000 years of Christianity to the present" by David Lewis. The book is a history of the Middle East from the time of the birth of Christ to the present. It is a comprehensive and well-written book that covers a wide range of topics, including the history of the Jewish people, the rise of Islam, and the modern Middle East. The book is written in a clear and concise style, making it accessible to a wide range of readers. It is a valuable addition to any library or collection of books on the Middle East.

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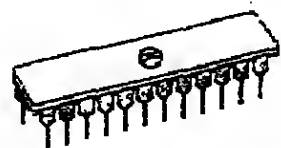




# The year-round Santa

By Jean Claude Elias

## chip talk



PEOPLE WHO have a real passion for anything like a hobby, a collection, and object or an art tend to develop strange habits. Their passion grows stronger with time. They become very demanding, picky and nothing can satisfy them anymore. One typical aspect of their crisis is the impossible search for perfection. Whether a violinist dreaming of the ideal bridge for his violin or a stamp collector scrutinising a century-old rare piece under a microscope — an activity that simple mortals surely cannot understand — such specialists will take to incredible heights the excitement for a detail that will make all the difference. Only those who share similar ardor will understand and sympathise.

Computer lovers belong to such a group. The industry however is helping them to nurture their passion beyond acceptable, reasonable limits. Because of the rapid advancement in computer technology and the way it is being promoted, PC aficionados may be the weirdest hobbyists of them all. The huge array of software and hardware products that the market is offering them is being updated, improved and replaced every few weeks. And they badly want to follow the trend. At any price.

What is amazing is that a PC addict is ready to spend money and change a piece in his setup, even for an insignificant technical improvement. An example: The access time of a memory chip, the speed at which it can retrieve data stored in it, is expressed in "ns" (nanosecond, or billionth of a second). Current PC memory works at the average rate of 70 ns. New circuits have been released that work at 60 ns. One should see how anxious were some users to obtain the new model. The same phenomenon is now happening for computer screens. When a new design was launched that featured a sharper resolution point, measuring exactly 0.27 mm instead of the standard 0.28 mm, many were those who wanted desperately to get rid of their "old" monitor to acquire the new one. It is like dying to trade your car that can do 160 km/h for one that can do 161 km/h.

The tiniest improvement in technical characteristics is seen as an absolute "must have." A printer that can produce

six pages per minute instead of five, a CD-ROM that rotates at twelve-speed instead of ten, multimedia speakers that deliver ten watts instead of nine or a new mouse with a slightly more comfortable thumb position, any of these products that may sound like vain gimmicks to those who are "out," will make an honest PC lover lose sleep over them.

Actually this species — PC lovers that is — is far from being ridiculous or insane. Its conduct is dictated not by technical necessity but by a simple, irresistible law: Pleasure. They know it well and don't feel ashamed a bit about it. Like children dreaming of some toy on Christmas Eve, computer users dream of faster hard disks, larger monitors and more feature-laden programmes. The only difference is that kids expect Santa once a year. PC users expect it every month or so. Who cares if nobody really feels the benefit, it just feels good to have it.

Nothing can better illustrate our consumer society than Personal Computers. They beat video tape recorders, cars, stereo systems and satellite TV receivers. Simply because the rate at which it is being updated is the fastest among all industries, even if it's by microscopic, negligible steps. Computer technology is now the major force that drives consumers to buy. Nothing allows you to combine pleasure and real productive work better than PCs. This is at least how the whole story about the machines is being presented to us by the industry. This is also the best excuse one can find to buy a computer and keep upgrading it, upgrading it, upgrading it...

# Heroes and zeros

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



THE BRITISH have beaten us again at a game that has been going on for as long as anyone can remember. One reason why they keep winning is that they are institutionally far better prepared than we are.

Take for example the plans to build a tower in the centre of London. One such institution, English Heritage, has decided to oppose world renowned architect Norman Foster's plans to build a 1,265ft Millennium Tower in the business district of London because, it claimed, it would overwhelm London.

The commissioners of English Heritage have considered that the tower, which would be the tallest building in Europe, would damage not only the heart of the business district but London as a whole.

English Heritage also plans to oppose plans by leading Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava to build another tower because it too is considered to be damaging to the London Skyline.

The commission's chairman said that the Foster Tower is "a fine building but one in the wrong place, and that London does not need a virility symbol to prove it is a world financial centre."

The next step will involve calling a public enquiry on the tower and, if necessary, banning the issue of planning permission.

These are the logical and democratic procedures that ultimately control who builds what and where. Maybe, just maybe, some day we will be able to reach this institutional stage of development where the role of real and effective institutions, rather than the role of the individual, in the decision making process is made paramount.

The game continues.

Teachers in the United Kingdom, it was announced last week, are to be given clear powers to use physical force to restrain pupils in playground fights and classroom disruption to protect the safety and education of others.

These latest instructions, themselves planned amendments to the Education Bill, follow complaints by teachers that they were risking their careers whenever they intervened in such fights.

The measures also include legally-enforceable detentions and longer exclusions.

Meanwhile, over here, our institutional framework for discipline at schools is a 1964 Education Act that many people agree contains gaps and anomalies that urgently need addressing.

This malfunction was clearly demonstrated by the High Court of Justice's annulment of a Ministry of Education decision to expel a student from one prestigious private school.

So while we wait for our dear lawmakers to act and maybe amend our outdated laws, they themselves are busy pronouncing untimely new ones thus allowing the British

to move ahead even further in the game.

A third contentious issue concerns levels of knowledge in both countries.

In Jordan, a recent television programme where the presenter ventures outdoors in our capital to ask citizens general knowledge questions has revealed several amazing facts about our people. Some people, it turns out, believe that the Emirate of Transjordan was founded in 1972 by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali while others said that it was founded in 1967. Others still said it was founded in 1968.

Striking a similar note, a recent survey published last week in the United Kingdom claimed that fewer than half of all school-children could place London on a map of Britain and more than a third did not know where Scotland was.

Education advisors have admitted that evidence from 900 pupils aged between 8 and 16 was rprising and disturbing because the national curriculum in Britain stipulated that children should be able to identify principal cities, regions and rivers on a map of the U.K. by the age of 11.

No points to either country.

Another recent situation between the two countries involves visa fees charged to citizens from both countries.

While we certainly should oppose those who try to tell us, and even mightily dictate, how we would welcome tourists, it should remain clear that when it comes to the arrangement of reciprocal treatment vis-a-vis visa charges, positions should remain fixed and uncompromising unless the action taken was mutual.

This means that if the British embassy in Amman charges Jordanian nationals JD37 for a single entry visa, then it is quite justifiable for the Jordanian Embassy in London to charge JD30 for a single entry visa.

Because of this, we believe that officials from the Ministry of Tourism were quite wrong to have pushed for a reduction in visa fees for British passport holders effective from Jan. 20, 1997.

In this matter, we think Jordan was wrog-footed by a group of people who should have known better. Maybe.

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, January 30, 1997		
1:00	Holy Koran	7:00
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi	7:15
1:30	Cartoon (Ovide & The Gang)	7:30
2:00	Moomin	7:35
2:30	They Came From Outer Space	8:00
3:00	Feature Film — A Stranger In Time	8:30
	Starring: Heather Kottek & Amy Seely	9:10
4:50	Call For Prayer and Link With Channel One	10:00
5:30	French Programmes	10:25
	Intertainment Varieties	11:00
7:00	Le Journal	11:50
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus	1:15
7:30	News Headlines	
7:35	Parenthood	
8:00	Documentary	
8:30	Babylon-5	
9:10	Kung Fu-The Legend Continues	1:00
10:00	News In English	1:05
10:25	Documentary	1:30
11:00	Feature Film — Angel Flight Down	2:30
	Starring: Patricia Kalember & David Charret	3:00
11:50	Mini Series	
1:05	Ramadan Talks	
Friday, January 31, 1997		
1:00	Holy Koran	4:30
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi	5:30
1:30	Flintstones	6:00
2:00	Playhouse & See How They Grow	7:30
2:30	Crystal Maze	7:35
3:00	Feature Film — Memphis Belle	8:00
	Starring: Matthew Modine & Eric Stoltz	8:30
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One	9:10
5:30	French Programme	10:00
	Science & Space Encyclopedia	10:25
7:00	Le Journal	11:00
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre	11:50
7:30	News Headlines	1:05
7:35	Down To Earth	
8:00	Oriental Rugs (Doc.)	
8:30	Babylon 5	
9:10	Hunter	1:00
10:00	News In English	1:05
10:25	Journey Across The Land Of Islam	1:30
11:00	Feature Film — The Rose & The Jackal	2:00
	Starring: Christopher Reeve & Madolyn Smith Osborne	2:30
11:50	Mini Series — Blue Grass	3:00
1:05	Ramadan Talks	
Saturday, February 1, 1997		
1:00	Holy Koran	6:15
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi	7:30
1:30	Cartoon	7:35
2:00	Chris Cross	8:00
2:30	Feature Film — Benji The Hunted	8:30
	Starring: Red Hegal & Nancy Francis	9:10
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One	10:00
5:30	Documentary	10:25
6:00	The Muppet Show	11:00
	French Programme	11:50
	Series — Jack	1:05
7:00	Le Journal	
7:15	Magazine — Ziva	
7:30	News Headlines	
7:35	Hanging With Mr. Cooper	
8:00	Oriental Rugs (Doc.)	
8:30	Prison	
9:10	Lois & Clark — The New Adventures Of Superman	
10:00	News In English	
10:25	MacGyver	
11:50	Feature Film — Honky Tonk	
	Starring: Clark Gable & Lana Turner	
1:05	Ramadan Talks	
Sunday, February 2, 1997		
1:00	Holy Koran	7:00
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi	7:15
1:30	Cartoon	7:30
2:00	French Programmes	7:35
2:30	The Famous Five	8:00
3:00	Feature Film — Young Giants	8:30
	Starring: John Huston & Peter Fox	9:10
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One	10:00
5:30	You Bet Your Life	10:25
		11:00
		11:50
		1:15

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### STRANGE BELIEFS

- He who wishes to protect himself from fever has to eat the first violet blossom on his way during springtime.
- A newly-born baby's body is cleaned with the first moistened swaddle to keep up smart all his life.
- All Indian chiefs place two owl feathers on their head-gears believing that it would give them a chance to guide and lead their people amidst darkness and enslavement. The hooting of an owl heralds death in the neighbourhood.
- The Normans used to feed a drunkard with owl omelet so as to help him come to his senses.

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- \*\* Hit the right nail on the head.  
Idrib alal watar al-hassas.
- \*\* Don't be stiff-necked.  
La takon aneedan.
- \*\* You need not go mad!  
La da'ee li-ghadab.
- \*\* His words get on my nerves.  
Kalamuhu yutheer a'sabi.
- \*\* A murrain on you!  
Alaikal-la'na!
- \*\* You're throwing mud at her.  
Innaka tulatikhu sum'ataha.
- \*\* That's too much for me.  
Inna batha fawqa taqati.

### JOKES

- FIRST: "When I speak the whole nation listens."  
SECOND: "That shows how important a person you are."  
FIRST: "Not at all. I'm a radio announcer."
- GEOGRAPHY TEACHER: "Now tell me where Canada is."  
STUDENT: "It's on page 24, sir."
- ONE LAWYER: "You're a fool."  
OTHER LAWYER: "But I'll say, you're damnfool."  
JUDGE: "As the learned lawyers have identified each other, please proceed with the case."
- EMPLOYEE: "Why haven't you taken any vacation this year?"  
EMPLOYER: "Because I thought I needed some rest."

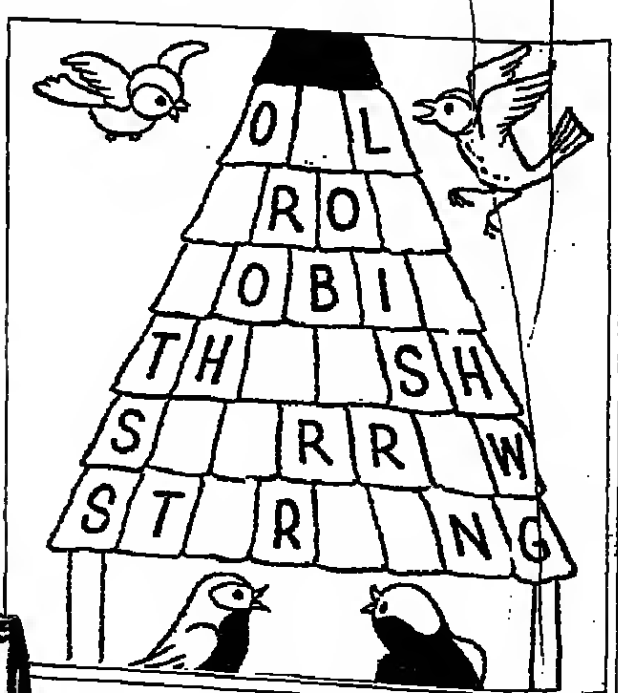
### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In World War I, London was bombed by ..... What?
2. A German optician who died in 1888 still remembered whenever precision lenses are mentioned. Can you remember his name?
3. Can you name four animals beginning with the letter "Z"?
4. Pair them off:  
(a) Zaptieh (1) Soft bath sponge  
(b) Zeta (2) Turkish policeman  
(c) Zimocca (3) Volcanic roc from Vesuvius  
(d) Zonda (4) Small cloister chamber, especially of church  
(e) Zurlite (5) Hot Argentinian wind

### PUZZLES

(A) A GANG OF MEN are employed in digging a well. The proposed depth of the well is 110 ft. 10 in. The men sink the shaft 40 ft. 6 in. in the first week. Owing to the hardness of the ground increasing as the shaft progresses, they are only able to dig 27 ft. in the second week. If in further weeks they dig at a proportionately increasing rate, how many weeks' work are needed to complete the shaft?

(B) THE BIRD HOUSE:  
Fill in the spaces to name six birds.



## From screen to Pop Art, culture

By Mahmoud I. Multi

CHARACTERISTICALLY, the pop art movement, which emerged in the mid-1950s, was a reaction to the abstract expressionism of the 1940s and 1950s. It was a movement that sought to bring art closer to the everyday life of the masses. Pop art artists used images from popular culture, such as comic books, advertisements, and mass media, to create their works. This movement was a significant part of the cultural landscape of the mid-20th century.

The pop art movement was a reaction to the abstract expressionism of the 1940s and 1950s. It was a movement that sought to bring art closer to the everyday life of the masses. Pop art artists used images from popular culture, such as comic books, advertisements, and mass media, to create their works. This movement was a significant part of the cultural landscape of the mid-20th century.

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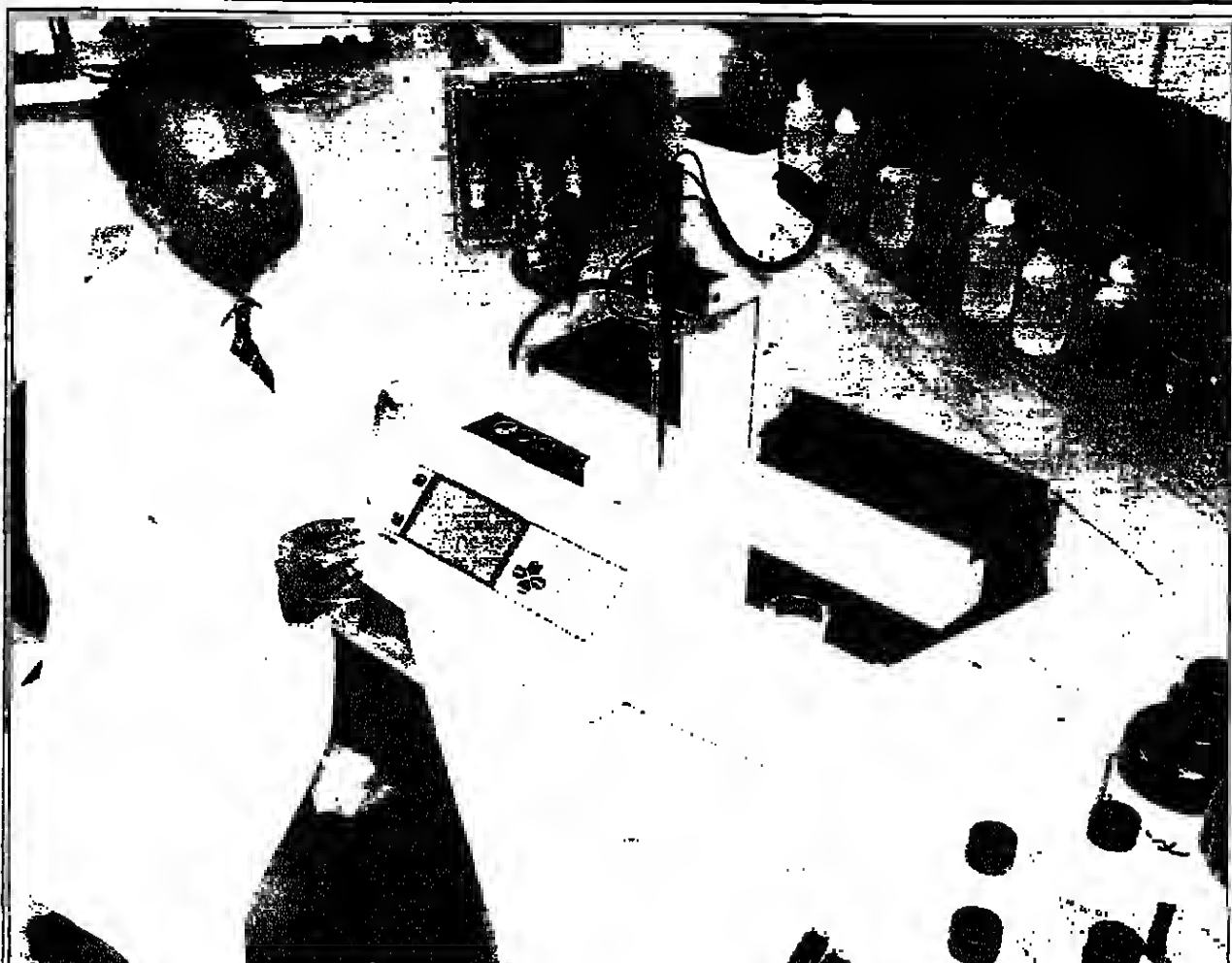
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Goddess Nu Wa for 8.88 million Hong Kong dollars in 1994 and Gathering Of Immortals for 10.8 million Hong Kong dollars in 1995.





## Setting the standard for pH measurement

U.K. COMPANY Sirius Analytical Instruments — winner of the 1995 Exporter of the Year Award originated by South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry — has developed an instrument enabling a user to measure pH accurately every time and to prove it.

pH (a scale for measuring acidity or alkalinity) is one of the commonest measurements made in the laboratory. But before the advent of the GLPH it was not easy to measure, even with trained operators. Mistakes could occur in standard operating

procedure (SOP), rendering the result unreliable.

The picture shows lecturer Dr. Malik Safa, reviewing the performance of the instrument that he helped develop and engineer.

The Sirius GLPH system sets a new standard of accurate pH measurement by automating all the steps in the SOP. To measure pH, the user selects the method for measurement, places the sample in the sample position (beaker foreground) and presses "yes".

An electrode holder with pH electrode, temperature probe and

stirrer moves automatically from the storage vial through two water washes to be ready to measure position above the sample. It then lowers into the sample, where pH is measured. After measurement, the electrode is washed. It is stored in the pH7 buffer solution between tests.

For most measurements with the GLPH only one-button operation is required. It self-calibrates automatically every hour (or other user-programmed time interval) and warns the user if calibration is out of specification.

By automatically re-

minding the user to change buffers and wash solutions and to refill the electrode, easy maintenance is assured. The results of every calibration and measurement are stored in the GLPH — data which can be downloaded to a PC and a restricted access supervisor mode ensures the data and method are protected.

The company is in the Teaching Company Scheme of the School of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Production Engineering at Kingston University Faculty of Technology — London Press Service.

## Anti-skin cancer groups battle bronzed Aussie image

By Marie McInerney  
Reuter

ADELAIDE — Australian health authorities, tackling the world's highest rates of skin cancer, have launched a graphic advertising campaign to ram home the dangers of sunburn.

Lapping up the sun on Australia's endless beaches has fallen from favour in the past decade, with anti-cancer groups trying to fade out the appeal of the famous "bronzed Aussie" look.

But the groups are concerned their message to cover up with hats, sunscreens and protective clothing is being forgotten, particularly by teenagers — and especially young men.

Australian anti-Cancer Councils say teenagers tend to feel they are invincible and research in Queensland, the northern state with the worst skin cancer rates, shows that while they understand the risks well they are less likely than other groups to change their behaviour.

"About 75 per cent of all Australians will have at least one skin cancer cut off in their lifetime," said Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria

Director Professor Robert Burton.

"And about 750,000 people will have something cut off their skin which could be a skin cancer this year — that is way above other countries," he said.

The latest television advertisement, which shows a skin lesion being cut off a young person's face, follows a survey that found nearly 40 per cent of people in Victoria, Australia's second most populous state, suffered sunburn last summer.

It is designed to be more confrontational than previous lifestyle campaigns that featured a cartoon Seagull Mascot.

"Young people have told us they do not want a pussyfooting approach, they want to be told the cold, hard facts," said Queensland Council Director Graeme Brien said.

Research has shown a direct link between sunburn and the incidence of skin cancer, by far the most prevalent form of cancer amongst Australia's 18 million population.

Treating skin cancers will cost the nation's health care system about a 150 million

Australian dollars (\$120 million) in 1997, about double the costs of lung cancer, the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria estimates.

Specialists attribute Australia's high incidence of skin cancers to the former fashion for its people, many from a fair-skinned, anglo-celtic background, to soak up the sun in pursuit of a dark tan.

Since alarm about skin cancer was triggered in the 1980s, Australians have been urged to abandon the bronzed look in promotions that have aimed at a cultural shift.

The council says its campaign has been very effective, particularly with schools and parents of young children, many of whom now romp on beaches in Lycra neck-to-knee bathing suits.

Young women too, aware of the effect on their looks of prematurely aged skin, have taken the message to heart.

Illustrating the trend, women's magazine cosmopolitan has adopted the anti-skin cancer promotion as policy and editor Mia Freedman said it no longer used darkly tanned models.

"The result has been that our eye has changed: Whereas 10 years ago a deep dark tan looked sexy and Australian and modern, now it looks very old fashioned and un-Australian," she said.

Citing pale-skinned actors like Judy Davis and Nicole Kidman as the new breed of Australian beauties, she told Reuters: "There is no such thing as a suntan. It is all sun-damage now."

Prof. Burton said Australians were still suffering the effects of poor sun behaviour in past decades, with the incidence of the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, doubling over two decades to 8,000 cases in 1993/94, the most recent figures.

But cancer specialists were buoyed by recent evidence that the incidence of all skin cancers was beginning to level off, while the death rate from melanoma in women was falling and had slowed in men after a steady climb for 30 years.

"It is the first country in the world where the death rate is starting to fall," Prof. Burton said.

## Virus reveals how it may cause cancer

By Maggie Fox  
Reuter

LONDON — A virus that commonly infects Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) patients may offer a clue as to how it, and possibly other viruses, causes cancer. U.S. researchers said.

Marvin Gershenberg and colleagues at Cornell University's medical school said they showed the virus has a gene that could cause uncontrolled cell growth — one of the characteristics of cancer.

Writing in the science journal Nature, they said their findings could explain the strong association between Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpes Virus

(KSHV or HHV 8) and Kaposi's Sarcoma Skin Tumours, one of the markers of AIDS.

Mr. Gershenberg's group homed in on a protein known as a G-Protein-Coupled Receptor (GPCR), known sometimes to be involved in disease.

They found it stimulates cells to reproduce, which means it could cause cells to go into the replicative overdrive that marks cancer.

It does this without the help of other chemicals usually required for the process, such as hormones or neurotransmitters. In effect, it can leave a cell permanently "switched on."

Mr. Gershenberg said the finding could also shed light on associations between other viruses and can-

cers. Similar genes have been found in cytomegalovirus, which also commonly infects AIDS patients.

"What's really exciting about this is that it makes this receptor a potential drug target," Mr. Gershenberg said in a telephone interview.

"If we can show that this is related to disease pathogenesis, we might be able to discover drugs that turn the receptor off." This would probably include a class of drug known as inverse agonists or negative antagonists.

"If they are right, KSHV GPCR could be an important target for the development of new AIDS therapies," agreed Philip Mur-

phy, an expert on the immune system at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

There are strong indications that some viruses can cause cancer.

In July, Columbia University researchers found that half of 40 gay AIDS patients who eventually developed Kaposi's were infected with KSHV.

Human wart virus, also known as papilloma virus, is strongly associated with cervical cancer. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is known to lead to liver cancer.

Britain's cancer research campaign estimates that viruses may be responsible for as many as 15 per cent of all cancers worldwide.

## Depression is undertreated, experts say

CHICAGO (R) — Too often people suffering from depression are left undiagnosed or undertreated because of the health care system's shortcomings and a lack of awareness of the affliction, a panel of experts have reported.

"In light of the prevalence and perniciousness of depression, the economic cost of the illness, its treatability, and previous public and professional efforts, why are so many people with depression receiving inadequate treatment or getting no treatment at all?" Robert

Hirschfeld, a psychiatrist at the University of Texas in Galveston, asked in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The panel, which met for two days in January of last year, was made up of doctors, insurers, public health officials and consumers and was organised by the National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association.

It said roughly 15 per cent of American men and 24 per cent of women will suffer from depression at some time and the toll is often seen in related health prob-

lems, unhappy and unproductive lives and higher rates of suicide.

Patients and their primary care physicians often fail to recognise the symptoms of depression and the myth that depression is not a "real" illness can deter proper diagnosis and treatment, Mr. Hirschfeld wrote in the Journal.

The panel also blamed inadequate insurance coverage and the barriers placed by managed health care systems for patients not obtaining the best anti-depressant drugs.

"Too many patients with depression are treated for very brief periods of time and then lost to the health care system," Mr. Hirschfeld wrote.

The panel recommended various strategies to improve treatment of depression including informing consumers about available treatment, developing performance standards for behavioural health care, removing barriers to proper diagnosis, urging collaboration among health care providers to recognise the affliction and finding new treatments.

## Researchers find gene linked to schizophrenia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Medical researchers have found a gene apparently linked to schizophrenia and say it may explain indirectly why those who suffer from the disease are very often chain smokers.

"Schizophrenics are the most heavy smokers of any psychotic patients... and it had been overlooked as a clue to the biology of schizophrenia," said Robert Freedman of the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Centre, who led the study.

Mr. Freedman and colleagues at the University of Colorado discovered that

schizophrenia is inherited and they traced the trait in nine families from Colorado and Utah who have a high incidence of the disease.

The source of the mental problem was located on a spot on Chromosome 15, the same area that controls a nicotine receptor called Alpha-7.

The receptor helps filter unnecessary information — such as sights and background noises, which schizophrenics are unable to do, causing them to suffer information overload. Since nicotine stimulates the

receptor, patients who smoke are able to get a few moments of relief from their affliction.

"All the patients reported they feel great after a cigarette," Mr. Freedman said in a report published Tuesday in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The scientist said he was collaborating with drug companies in trying to find a treatment that targets the nicotine receptor to help around four million Americans who suffer from schizophrenia.

Mr. Freedman insisted

that his findings do not promote smoking as a cure for schizophrenia, but provide some reassurance to families of schizophrenics who wonder why their loved ones cannot stop smoking.

Mr. Freedman also said he had yet to prove his theory by locating the mutation that would link the schizophrenic trait to the nicotine receptor gene.

He pointed out that in the families he researched, many of the patients' siblings had inherited the same trait but did not suffer from the mental illness.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

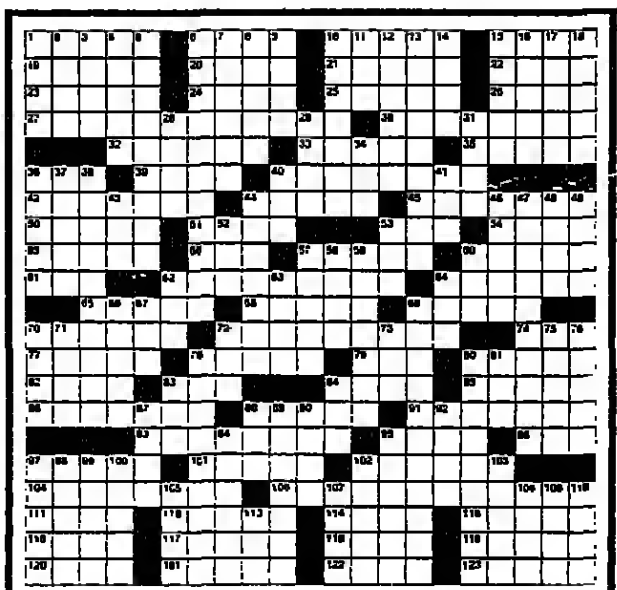
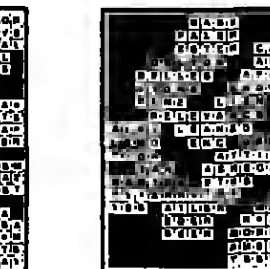
CACA-PHONY  
By Raymond Hanel

- ACROSS
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  - 2 Star of Zanz
  - 3 Pious exasperation
  - 4 On the horizon
  - 5 Name before
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  - 8 Musical name
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Diagramless, 21x21  
By James Barrick

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  - 100 ... and non

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Little league third baseman wins riddle award by busting in the winning run in key game on last day.
2. Why does a politician "press the flesh," while ordinary folk can only shake hands?
3. Late, very dandy stylish young surgeons have started wearing nifty cowboy coats.
4. Lazy old hound dog snoozes placidly under sagging ranch house porch.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. SPXX-UPPXP SNEED ULO QWIA-PWFCI  
ELWGH MQ UWFU-UPPXP KLOIA BUNPE  
IMM ELDA? — By Barbara J. Bogg
2. CVR TREZUP UST ROYZ HED ARMUR  
HUYZTRMCRY HUSCVZ DZ CVRC CVHOT  
VEOZ EYR GUTP AEMRGETZ. — By E.C. Doyle
3. RPL GDNF TMARI NBSGURPND RUP  
AREPAL SR MF TRISYBIEFS YBIPRID.  
— By Ed Haddadson
4. MAN OTLLYS UI MY NMA UI WYULMYS  
DIRVLEB WAS DRYSGOUR! — By Frank N. Stein

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) Zeppelins.
- (2) Carl Zeiss.
- (3) Zebra, zebu, zamouse, zibet, zoril, zorra, zorro, zerd.
- (4) (a) — 2.  
(b) — 4.  
(c) — 1.  
(d) — 5.  
(e) — 3.

### PUZZLES

- (A) Four further weeks, making six in all.
- (B) 1. OWL.  
2. CROW.  
3. ROBIN.  
4. THRUSH.  
5. SPARROW.  
6. STERLING.

## Beilin: Israel should

continued from page 1

Mr. Beilin said Israel should not wait for the United Nations to decide on the future of the occupied territories, but should take the initiative and make a decision on its own.

He said that Israel should not be afraid of the Arab reaction, but should stand up to the challenge and make a decision on its own.

Mr. Beilin said that Israel should not be afraid of the Arab reaction, but should stand up to the challenge and make a decision on its own.



## Groups e image

"The result has been that our eye has changed. Whereas 10 years ago a deep dark tan looked sexy and Australian and modern, now it looks very old-fashioned and un-Australian," she said.

Using pale-skinned models like Judy Davis and Nicole Kidman as the new breed of Australian beauty, she told Reuters. "There is no such thing as a sunburn. It is all sun-damage now."

Prof. Burton said Australian men were still suffering the effects of poor skin behaviour in past decades with the incidence of the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, doubling over two decades to 8,000 cases in 1993/94, the most recent figures.

But cancer specialists were buoyed by recent evidence that the incidence of all skin cancers was beginning to level off, while the death rate from melanoma in women was falling and had slowed in men after a steady climb for 30 years.

"It is the first country in the world where the death rate is starting to fall," Prof. Burton said.

## Use cancer

ply, an expert on the immune system at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

There are strong indications that some viruses can cause cancer.

In July, a Columbia University researcher found that half of 10 gay AIDS patients who eventually developed Kaposi's were infected with KSHV.

Human wart virus, also known as papilloma virus, is strongly associated with cervical cancer. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is known to lead to liver cancer.

Britain's cancer research campaign estimates that viruses may be responsible for as many as 15 per cent of all cancers worldwide.

## Experts say

"Two many patients with depression are treated for very brief periods of time and then lost to the health care system," Mr. Hirschfeld wrote.

The panel recommended various strategies to improve treatment of depression, including: information, consumer, about available treatment; developing performance standards for behavioural health care; removing barriers to proper diagnosis; urging collaboration among health care providers; to recognize the affliction; and finding new treatments.

## schizophrenia

that has findings do not provide strong evidence as a cure for schizophrenia, but provide some reassurance to families of schizophrenics who wonder why their loved ones cannot stop smoking.

Mr. Friedman also said that he had yet to see the theory that would link the schizophrenia to the nicotine addiction.

He pointed out that the families he researched, the families of the patients' siblings, had inherited the same trait but did not suffer from the mental illness.

## PUZZLES

og Mr. Peres' first government, said he was present when the cabinet debated setting up the so-called security zone.

"When we took the decision, nobody around the table dreamt it would take 12 years to even consider a change of policy," Mr. Beilin told the Associated Press. "It was a kind of temporary situation."

Mr. Beilin said Israel

## Sudan rebels claim inching closer to key power station

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese rebels claimed Wednesday that their forces were just 30 kilometres southeast of the strategic Roseires power station in Blue Nile province, which supplies electricity to the capital Khartoum.

The claim was made in a statement received by AFP in Cairo, as the Islamic government in Khartoum reassured that the rebel advance had been halted and that a counter-offensive was in the works.

"On Tuesday night, the forces of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) liberated the two garrisons of Yarda and Darfa and were continuing their advance to just beyond the Wadel Mahi region, 30 kilometres southeast of the strategic town of Roseires," said the statement from rebel commander Colonel John Garang.

"They were five kilometres from the Kirma garrison, the first position (occupied by the Sudanese army) for the defence of the town of Roseires," it said.

A French expert on Sudan said the claim, if true, was significant: "The opposition forces have never been so close to Khartoum."

objective is...

res, if possible, it as they can, in order to the government of President Omar Al Bashir in a more delicate position," the expert said.

The alliance groups Sudan's northern opposition movement with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by Col. Garang and fighting since 1984 for an end to northern

Arabic domination of the animist and Christian south.

Sudanese rebels have since Jan. 12 been mounting a major offensive in the east of Sudan.

Khartoum accuses Ethiopia and Eritrea of taking part in the attacks, but this has been denied by both countries as well as the rebels themselves.

In Khartoum, at his daily press briefing, government spokesman Brigadier General Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair said the rebels were still occupying the border towns of Kurmuk and Qessen.

Both towns lie to the south of the reservoir, fed by the Blue Nile River, that stretches behind the Roseires dam.

"The aggressors have tried several times to advance further into Sudanese territories, but government troops have always thwarted their attempts," he said.

He said there had been no developments on the eastern front.

But he added: "Preparations are underway for launching attacks to expel the forces of invasion" — while at the same time Khartoum is continuing efforts towards "explaining the situation to sisterly and friendly countries."

Col. Garang has previously said that he does not intend to occupy the town of Damazin, which is next to the Roseires dam, or to march on Khartoum or isolate Port Sudan, on the Red Sea.

A senior Sudanese military officer, meanwhile, accused Israel of giving weapons to Ethiopia which were used in fighting along

its eastern border.

Major General Mohammad Kamel Abdullah told the independent daily Akhbar Al Yom that Sudanese government troops had seized "large quantities of Israeli-made weapons belonging to the Ethiopian army."

Gen. Abdullah, a senior officer in charge of training, did not say when the weapons were seized.

The secretary general of Sudan's National Congress, a top decision-making body, told the daily that his country had refused foreign mediation to end the offensive by rebels.

"Foreign mediation is not considered at the time being," Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani told Akhbar Al Yom.

"The only solution to the present fighting is refraining from intervention in Sudan's affairs by foreign countries, particularly Ethiopia and Eritrea supported by the United States," Mr. Atabani said.

Another daily, Al Sudan Al Hadith, reported that Sudanese troops had taken prisoner two Ethiopian soldiers, an Eritrean and a number of southern Sudanese rebels during mopping up operations in the southeastern border area on Tuesday.

It quoted the captives as confessing that Ethiopian forces "did the fighting and offered logistical support to the operation."

The captives also indicated that there were foreign experts, whom they did not identify, who were issuing instructions from inside Ethiopia, the daily said in a dispatch from Damazin.



ENDANGERED SPECIES: An Egyptian selling white parrots in the Tounsi market south of Cairo. The Egyptian authorities have seized around 400 birds and reptiles including some "endangered species" which are being illegally sold in the market, official sources said Wednesday. Eagles, cobras, parrots, owls, crested vipers and other endangered species were seized in a raid carried out by environmental police (AFP photo).

## Four Mideast leaders to visit U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

mentation, not for negotiation," Mr. Indyk told Palestinian journalists in Gaza.

"We have indicated to both Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Netanyahu that it is our view that it is Israel's responsibility to implement the further redeployment."

As part of this month's agreement that led to Israel's troop pullback in Hebron, Mr. Netanyahu also promised three more withdrawals in West Bank rural areas, beginning in March and ending by mid-1998.

Mr. Arafat, whose autonomy government now controls most of the Gaza Strip and about a quarter of the West Bank, has made clear he expects most of the territory to be handed over by the third pullout, and that any disagreements should be negotiated.

Israeli officials suggest the Palestinians would get no more than 50 per cent of the West Bank, and have secured U.S. backing to their view that the issue is an Israeli decision.

Mr. Indyk noted, however, that areas of the West Bank that remain under Israel's control

after the three pullouts would be on the table in talks on a final peace settlement to be concluded by 1999.

The Palestinians expect those talks, also scheduled to begin in March, to yield a state in most of the West Bank and Gaza with its capital in Jerusalem — a prospect Mr. Netanyahu currently rejects.

Mr. Indyk, who represents U.S. interests in Israel as well as the West Bank and Gaza, said the four-month Hebron talks established important trust between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu.

"If you could have seen as I did the meeting which concluded the negotiations between Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Netanyahu you would have understood... the transformation in their relationship, from antagonists to friends and partners," he said.

At the same time, he said, the sides became too dependent on active U.S. mediation. "Often during negotiations we actually had to separate the parties and negotiate with each separately... that is something we did not like to do. We encourage the two to negotiate together."

## Netanyahu 'active' towards talks with Syria

(Continued from page 1)

between us and the Syrians, one which must be clarified and minimised during the talks."

Mr. Netanyahu told the newspaper that he was already preparing a three-track approach for the Syria negotiations.

"Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will conduct them on the security side and Foreign Minister David Levy on the political side," he said.

"I believe there will also be an economic track and so I have already asked Finance Minister Dan Meridor to focus on economic issues if such talks are opened with Syria."

"Syria will have much to gain on the economic side because the Syrian economy is not dashing forward. There are certain things that only with an open approach — like joint projects — will Syria be able to make progress," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu's remarks were published a day after U.S. President Bill Clinton said that rekindling the Israel-Syria peace process would be a "major focus" of his new administration's Middle East policy.

"There will never be a comprehensive peace in the Middle East until we resolve this matter with Syria, between Syria and Israel," Mr. Clinton said, adding that he would discuss formulas for resuming the talks in upcoming meetings in Washington with Mr. Netanyahu and other regional leaders.

Mr. Netanyahu said he would take to Mr. Clinton "several ideas" aimed at finding bridging proposals for resuming negotiations.

But he insisted his right-wing government would not accept unwritten understandings reached between Syria and Israel's former Labour administration concerning a return of the Golan Heights.

"We are a different govern-

ment, elected with a different mandate," he said, adding that Israel would only honor "written agreements... not what was said in hypothetical negotiations."

Mr. Levy revealed last week that he had sent a number of messages to Syria via intermediaries about formulas for resuming talks, but had not received any clear response.

Mr. Khaddam, touring Gulf states this week to garner support for Damascus' position, dismissed Israeli optimism about the chances for a resumption of negotiations as nothing more than "propaganda."

In the absence of an Israeli agreement to honour the previous government's commitment to a Golan pullback, he said, "there are currently no moves to restart the negotiations."

"Israel should agree on the resumption of the negotiations from the point where they stopped and accept the obligations made by the previous government," Mr. Khaddam said.

The Washington Post said Wednesday Israel and Syria were on the verge of a peace accord last year when Mr. Peres derailed the process.

Israel in early 1996 had agreed in writing to withdraw from the Golan Heights, and a draft peace accord was set to be completed by September 1996, the daily said quoting Syria's ambassador in Washington Walid Moualem.

For that reason, said Syria's chief negotiator in the now-stalled peace talks with Israel, we "were very surprised when, soon afterward, Mr. Peres called early elections," making the controversial agreement impossible to reach.

But U.S. and Israeli sources disputed the account given by Mr. Moualem in an interview the Post said would be published in the upcoming issue of the Journal of Palestine Studies.

"There is no such Israeli commitment. There was no written agreement on any withdrawal," said former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Itamar Rabinovich, who negotiated with Mr. Moualem on behalf of Mr. Peres and his predecessor, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabinovich said Israel had made a "hypothetical" offer to withdraw from the Golan. "It was conditioned on Syria's meeting Israel's needs (for security) and Israel's needs were not met."

Mr. Peres in February 1996 called for elections to prime minister to be moved up from October to May to seek an endorsement for his pursuit of the Middle East peace process in the wake of Rabin's assassination in November 1995.

Mr. Moualem said Damascus regarded the alleged Israeli commitment as binding on the current Israeli government of Mr. Netanyahu.

He criticised Mr. Netanyahu's disregard of four years of Israeli-Syrian negotiations and his strong stand against pulling out of the Golan Heights.

## King urges democratic practices

(Continued from page 1)

"It is the duty of every Jordanian to stand firmly, clearly and objectively against him (Majali). This political discourse, expressed in this provincial and lawful lecture manifests a very rightist and extreme thinking," Mr. Masri said in a newspaper article.

He said the Jordanians of Palestinian origin acquired their Jordanian nationality through legal means following the 1952 unity between the East and West Banks of Jordan.

"A contract was reached between the two banks through which the West Bank, including Jerusalem, became part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its inhabitants Jordanian citizens," he said.

"When the West Bank was lost to Israeli occupation, that happened against their (the West Bankers') will and consent," he said.

Mr. Masri concluded by waging all "the regime's apparatus" to take a "clear and frank stand against all that is being said and propagated."

At least half a dozen articles appeared in the dailies this week commenting on the same issue.

The King urged Jordanians to make their country a model to all countries in the field of democracy and in defending human rights. He said: "Jordan has a special status amongst the whole countries and this could not be reached without our untiring efforts in this regard."

The King was accompanied on his visit by Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and Minister of Information Marwan Muasher.

King Hussein meanwhile received embles from Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, King Hassan II of Morocco, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani of Qatar, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, Second Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Sheikh Hamad Ben Issa Al Khalifah of Bahrain, and Sheikh Jasssem Ben Hamad Al Thani of Qatar congratulating him on the success of the knee surgery and wishing him speedy recovery and continued good health.

King Hussein sent a cable to Saudi King Fahd condoling him over the death of his sister Sheikhah Bent Abdul Aziz. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed also sent a cable to King Fahd condoling him over the death of his sister.

## Ex-minister on trial in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Netanyahu's coalition government, is also at the centre of a major scandal which erupted last week over the abortive appointment of a Netanyahu associate as attorney-general.

Police launched a criminal investigation on Sunday into a report on state television that lawyer Roni Bar-On was named attorney-general as part of a deal to win a plea-bargain for Mr. Dori in exchange for Shas' continued support of the Netanyahu government.

Also on Wednesday police said they had launched a criminal investigation against Mr. Netanyahu's powerful chief of staff, Avigdor Lieberman, on suspicion of forgery, fraud and breach of trust.

The probe was ordered after

opposition deputies accused Mr. Lieberman of providing the cabinet with falsified financial reports concerning Israel state television, which Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly accused of left-wing political bias and wants to privatise.

Mr. Lieberman, a Russian immigrant nicknamed "Rasputin" for his behind-the-scenes political manoeuvring for the prime minister, faces indictment after several complaints were brought against him for allegedly falsifying figures on funding for the state television authority, police spokeswoman Linda Menu-chim said.

Opposition deputies and the organisation on government quality accused Mr. Lieberman of submitting to ministers' false summaries of reports on the financial affairs of Israel Television.

"The fact that there is a new Israeli government does not mean there is a new Israel, and each government is bound by the agreements of its predecessor," Mr. Moualem said.

The diplomat said he gave the interview because he was frequently asked why Syria did not seize what appeared to be a genuine opportunity to make peace with Israel.

Syrian envoys headed for Oman on Wednesday after winning backing from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Damascus' conditions on resuming peace negotiations with Israel.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan said he backed Damascus' position during talks with Mr. Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa at his Wathba desert resort Tuesday night.

"The meeting was positive and the president affirmed the UAE's support for Syria's stand towards the resumption of negotiations (with Israel)," Mr. Khaddam told the official news agency WAM after the meeting.

Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sharaa, who visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the

weekend, flew to Oman before travelling to Qatar and Bahrain.

An aide to Mr. Khaddam said the delegation's tour of Syria's Gulf war allies was intended to forge a United Arab stand to put pressure on Israel to force it to resume peace negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The aide said Syria was keen to forge a common Arab stand in the face of what he described as Israel's intransigence. "Syria believes in joint Arab action, which is needed now to face the current delicate circumstances," said the official, who requested anonymity.

"There should be continuous contacts and consultations among Arab states and they should drop all differences and forge a united position."

Arab diplomats in Abu Dhabi said Mr. Khaddam wanted GCC states to use their good ties with the United States to persuade it to play a fair role in the Middle East peace process.

He is also asking the Gulf countries to freeze normalising relations with Israel to force it to return to the negotiating table and accept Damascus' conditions.

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## West Bank to get first luxury hotel

will conduct an evaluation of the actual worth of the company in terms

of the company in terms of assets, liabilities, returns on investment, etc. before drawing up tender documents for bidders to become the "strategic partner," he said.

The proceeds from the sale of JTC equity will be deposited in a special account with the Central Bank of Jordan and will be allocated for development projects.

Mr. Abdulhad said excavations for the hotel, to be situated on a hilltop with a view of occupied Jerusalem 10 kilometres away, would begin in coming days.

The only other luxury hotel in the Palestinian territories is the Windmill, which opened late last year on the Gaza City seafront.

Nasser Abdulhad, director of the Arab Hotels Company, which is financing the project with help from the European Investment Bank and the Development Bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A tiny Gulf emirate is planning to build a fun

Ajman, which has no oil, is one of the smallest members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a popula-

(GAL), with a population of around 50,000 and gross domestic product of nearly two billion dirhams (\$544 million) in 1995.

"We have received bids from international companies for the project. It will be financed jointly by the government and the private sector and some firms

Sheikh Ammar said Ajman had rejected offers by international firms to build an oil

firms to build an oil refinery in the northern emirate because "it is a small emirate and we do not want projects that will affect its environment."

## Companies clamour for slots in UAE airport free zone

zone which will cover almost two million square meters when it begins operating at the end of the year.

The U.S. aircraft manufacturer and computer company want to use the zone as a spare-parts supply centre. Mohieddine Ibn Hindi, director general of Dubai Civil Aviation, told Al Khaleej newspaper.

Air freight business to the former republics of the Soviet Union and other areas in the region has grown sharply.

Dubai, the trade hub of the United Arab Emirates, already has a free-trade zone in Jebel Ali where around 900 local and foreign companies have invested about \$3 billion in distribution, manufacturing and other businesses.

[illegible]

# Daily Beat

*A review of news from the Arabic press*

## Prices of bank shares may drop on large supply of new issues

**\*\* EIGHT JORDANIAN** banks have to issue 74.4 million shares this year to raise their combined capital from JD87.58 million to JD162 million in accordance with Central Bank regulations that require all banks in Jordan to have a minimum capital of JD20 million each by the end of 1997.

Four banks should have raised their capital to the JD20 million as required by the end of 1996 but only one, the Unioq Bank for Saving and Investment, completed the requirement by raising its capital from JD11 million to the JD20 million level.


Approval was given by the Ceotral Baok and the general assembly of the Ammao Bank for Investment (ABI) to restructure the capital and issue 15 million oew shares to briog ABI's capital to JD20 million but so far oo information has emerged on the results of the process for raising the capital.

Two other banks, the Philadelphia Investmeot Bank and the Middle East Investmeot Bank, did oot issue oew shares in 1996 as required although a decision by their management were taken to raise the capital of each to JD20 million. As such, they are obliged to issue new shares this year in addition to the aforementioned eight banks.

The Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, the Jordan Gulf and the Export and Finaoce Bank are not affected by the Central Baok requirement as their capitals were JD44 million, JD25 million, JD20 million and JD20 million respectively at the end of 1996.

Although not all the increases will be by offering shares to the public, as banks plan to capitalise part of their reserves, analysts expect about 100 million shares to be added to the market. As such, dealers at the stock exchange (Amman Financial Market) predict that bank shares will be negatively affected and that their prices will retreat due to the large supply amid the liquidity problem that prevails at the stock market (Al Aswaq).

## THE BETTER HALF.



**GLASBERGEN**

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"I didn't get to the store yesterday.  
Would you rather have ketchup  
in your coffee or mustard?"

---

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POSOT

THICH


JOACLE

KLUBEC

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### THAT SCRAMBLIST WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



He lets his  
music speak  
for him

**WHAT IT TOOK  
FOR THE SHY  
GUITARIST TO PER-  
FORM IN PERSON.**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: O O O O OF O O O O

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's      Jumbles:

Answer:            ELUJOE SPURN MOTIVE CANKER

What the New Year's Eve revelers considered the spiest singer — A NOISE-MAKER

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## Alpine skiing Sykora seeks revenge

SCHLADMING, Austria (R) — Thomas Sykora, the dominant figure in men's slalom this season, says he has learned his lesson from his disappointing seventh place last Sunday and is ready to win again on Thursday.

Sunday's World Cup slalom in Kitzbuehel saw Sykora fail to make the podium for the first time in a year and the Austrian is determined to make amends in Schlading.

"My result in Kitzbuehel was a real punch in the face. But maybe it came at the right time, as a warning that I am not as invincible as I thought," said the 28-year-old Sykora.

In Kitzbuehel, Sykora was suffering from hip pains after a heavy fall during practice but he refused to offer the injury as an excuse for his defeat.

"I made a really terrible mistake at the bottom. I simply risked too much. It was completely my fault," he said.

"I would like to congratulate (Austria's) Mario Reiter for winning Kitzbuehel. He won because he was the better skier and not because I was injured. But I want revenge in Schlading," said Sykora, who has won five of the seven slaloms staged so far and finished second once.

Victory in Thursday's race, which will be held at night under floodlights in a dress rehearsal for the world championship slalom in Sestriere, Italy, would give Sykora the slalom World Cup, with two races still to go.

Alberto Tomba's participation in

Schlading is, as ever, the subject of debate. The Italian Olympic and world champion, recently recovered from influenza and injury, may want to save his energies for Sestriere.

Reiter is looking forward to Schlading, which he considers good practice for the February 16 championship slalom which will also be staged at night.

Victory in Kitzbuehel came as a relief for Reiter, guaranteeing him a place in the World Championships, which open on Sunday, after a poor start to the season due to health problems.

"Before Kitzbuehel I was only the fifth-best Austrian and only four can participate in Sestriere," said Reiter, who is now sure of a place along with Sykora and the consistent Thomas Stangassinger.

Austria's fourth championship slalom bib will be the subject of a fight in Schlading between Siegfried Voglreiter and Christian Mayer.

Reigning Olympic slalom champion Stangassinger, who this winter has finished second three times and third twice, was disappointed with fourth place in Kitzbuehel.

Stangassinger will have to finish ahead of Sykora in Schlading if he wants to keep alive his slim chances of winning the slalom World Cup.

## Graf easily wins in Tokyo as Majoli advances

TOKYO (R) — Steffi Graf ended a week of personal and sporting losses on Wednesday with an easy victory over Lisa Raymond of the United States in the second round of the Pan-Pacific Open women's tennis tournament.

Looking relaxed for the first time in days, Graf won the hour-long match 6-3, 6-2.

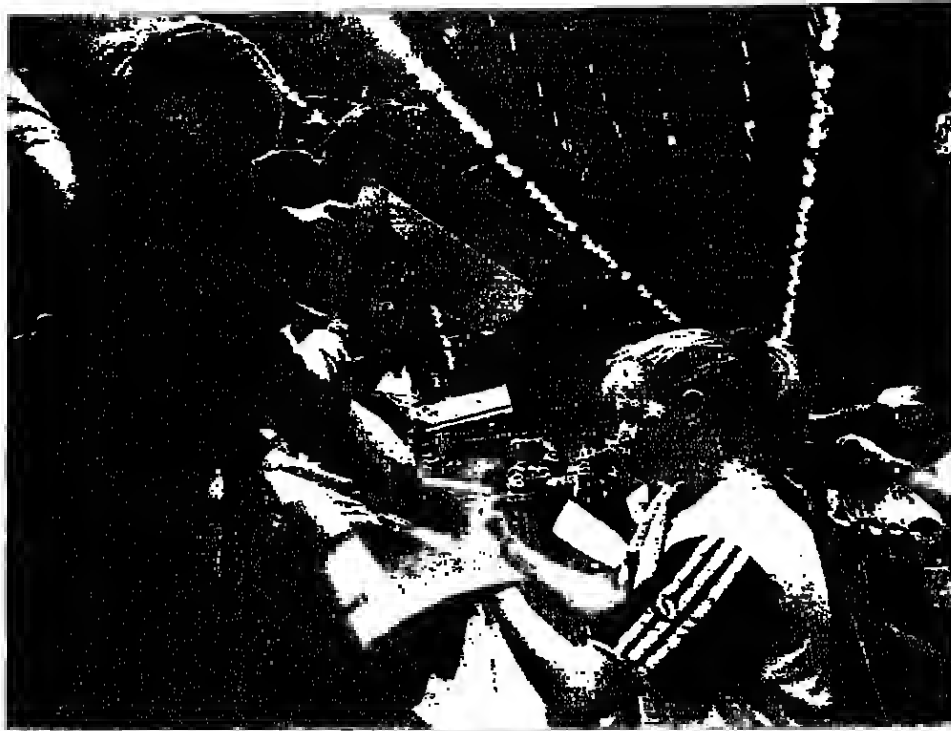
Graf, who in the past week has been knocked out of the Australian Open in the fourth round and saw her father convicted of tax evasion, made her return to tennis Tuesday in an exhibition doubles match with American Pam Shriver, which she also won.

But her game Wednesday against Raymond was her first serious competition appearance and she showed no signs of either the injuries which hampered her at the Australian Open or the personal strain from her father Peter Graf's conviction.

The German did not drop her serve once in the indoor match on artificial turf.

A court in Mannheim, Germany, last Friday sentenced Peter Graf to three years and nine months in jail for evading tax amounting to 12 million marks (\$7.4 million) on his daughter's earnings.

Graf, who is under investigation herself in the affair,



Steffi Graf of Germany signs autographs for her Japanese fans after beating U.S. Lisa Raymond 6-3, 6-2 in the second round match of the Pan-Pacific Open women's tennis tournament in Tokyo. Graf on Wednesday broke her silence about her father's conviction for tax evasion, saying it was not affecting her play (Reuters photo)

is the top seed in the Pan-Pacific and had a first-round bye in the singles of the \$926,000 event.

### Majoli defends title

Iva Majoli faced tough times finding a rhythm to match the fast surface of the court at the start of her title

defence at the Toray Pan-Pacific Open women's tennis tournament Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Croat, pitted against Ludmilla Varmuzova of San Marino in her first match since a first-round loss at the Australian Open, stormed back from 2-5 down in the second set, saving two set

points, before scoring a 6-4, 7-5 victory over the qualifier.

"The first match is always the toughest one. But it's great to come back as the defending champion. Hopefully, I can do well again this year. It's still a long way to go, but I've been playing some good

matches here," said Majoli. Both Majoli and Varmuzova had five break chances in the first set, with the Croat converting twice and Varmuzova once.

Majoli made a forehand error four times in a row to go down 2-4 in the second set and failed to break back in the seventh game after having five advantage points.

Majoli, however, never stopped hitting hard and staved off Varmuzova's double set points at 15-40 in the ninth game, forcing her into making errors. She did not give another chance to a dispirited Varmuzova.

"I think I gave her a chance to start playing better in the second set," said Majoli after the 90-minute match.

Majoli's second-round opponent is Japan's ace Ai Sugiyama, the winner over Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France Tuesday.

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, semifinalist at Melbourne last week, shrugged off a slow start, taking eight straight games from 0-4 down before beating Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-4, 6-1.

Seventh-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania was a straight forward 6-3, 6-4 winner over Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

## Banned Lu returns with World Cup win

GLASGOW (R) — Chinese world champion Lu Bin made a winning return to competition abroad on Tuesday after serving a two-year doping ban.

Lu was one of seven Chinese swimmers who tested positive at the October 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima and were banned for two years.

She trained throughout her suspension and returned to international competition in the Beijing leg of the eight-venue World Cup series earlier this month.

She managed just two fifth places and one sixth in Beijing but on Tuesday celebrated her first appearance in Europe since the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima a month later she

Lu, 20 earlier this month, won the 50 metres backstroke in 28.74 seconds, seizing the lead with a long underwater start and holding off French challenger Anne-Francoise Glare on the return length of Glasgow's new Tollcross Park pool.

Lu had earlier failed to make the final of the 200 metres backstroke but backstroke is not her speciality and she is using it to feel her way back into competition before resuming her main events.

Lu made a spectacular mark in the 1994 World Championships as a 17-year-old, winning the 200 individual medley, sharing in two Chinese relay victories and taking silver medals in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

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"I'd like to show that I have this ability to give good performance in competition. I want to show I had something in my mind to keep training very hard for the last two years."

Lu was one of three Chinese winners on the first day of the two-day meeting, fifth leg of the World Cup series in 25-metre pools.

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A non-profit organisation is seeking to recruit bright young entrepreneur with lots of energy for a management position:

Responsibilities: Lead, plan, organise, design, manage and control all phases of the organisation and its development into a sustainable microfinance institution.

Qualifications: Bachelor degree in analytical field, MBA strongly preferred; ability to train and manage team; experience in Community Development and prior management experience preferred but not required; knowledge of computers; excellent interpersonal and analytical skills; and demonstrable business skills required. Fluency in English and Arabic also required.

If interested, please send your CV to Fax 612902

### WANTED A YOUNG UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

A foreign international company is looking to employ a young university graduate, age around 23 years, fluent in as many languages as possible, however, fluency in Arabic and English is a must. The successful candidate shall be trained by the company to become an international trader. Location shall be probably in Amman, but training shall take place abroad.

Applicants shall send a curriculum vitae with a phone number to the following address:

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Interested investors are requested to submit their offers with the following conditions.

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- \* Bank guarantee 5% of the total value of shares to be bought to the JIC account.
- \* All offers should be submitted before 12 noon Saturday, 22 Feb. 1997.

For further information, please contact JIC, Jabal Amman, 7th Circle, attention Director General Tel: 816181/5 Fax: 816915 Amman

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For more details please contact owner on Tel: 642895 between 8-10 a.m. & 1-5 p.m.

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The Cooperative Society for the Cattle Breeders in Zarqa announces the tender to buy 500 pregnant heifers to produce milk provided its origin is from a single country of Holstein (Friesian kind (black and white) in accordance with the conditions and specifications mentioned in the tender.

Payment: By equal 12 monthly instalment minimum.

Interested people can visit the society offices to obtain a copy of the free tender.

The deadline for accepting tenders February 15, 1997.

N.B. Advertisement fees should be borne by whoever wins the tender.

Address: Tel: 914616, 914617, 914615, Fax: 914095

Management Committee Secretary Sabri Al-Amari

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Emirates Telecommunications Corporation - Etisalat

**Job Opportunities in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Emirates Telecommunications Corporation - Etisalat, the official telecoms administration of the United Arab Emirates invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions at its Computer Department in Abu Dhabi.

**Job #1: Computer Technical Analyst (Ref. TA/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science with minimum of 7 years experience in network equipment maintenance and operation systems management. A good knowledge of UNIX databases is required and exposure to various operating systems would be well regarded.

**Job #2: Sr. Systems Analyst (Ref. SSA/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 7 years experience in application software design, development and implementation. The incumbent is expected to lead a team of analysts and programmers executing the in-house software development projects. Knowledge of UNIX and INGRES/RDBMS is required. Shall be conversant with software project development life cycle, standard and structure design methodologies and ability to use CASE tools. Project planning, coordination and strong interpersonal and supervisory skills are essential.

**Job #3: Computer Systems Analyst (Ref. CSA/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 7 years experience in developing and maintaining complex databases. Familiarity with UNIX, NT and sound knowledge of Relational Database technology and excellent command of the SQL programming language and operating system.

**Job #4: Computer Systems Analyst (Ref. CSA/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs. 9,028/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 5 years experience in application software development. The incumbent will be a member of the development team for the Management Information Systems. Knowledge of UNIX, RDBMS and experience in developing Management Information Systems are essential. Experience in OLAP and multi-dimensional databases is an added advantage.

**Job #5: Analyst/Programmer (Ref. AP/MIS/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs. 5,597/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 3 years experience in developing business applications. The incumbent is expected to be familiar with software development life cycle and shall possess skills in application design, preparing program specifications, coding/documentation and testing. Knowledge of UNIX, RDBMS and experience in developing Management Information Systems are essential. Experience in OLAP and multi-dimensional databases is an added advantage.

**Job #6: Analyst/Programmer (Ref. AP/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs. 5,597/- per month including transport allowance.

Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 4 years experience in developing - business applications using RDBMS and SQL (preferably INGRES). The incumbent is expected to be familiar with software development life cycle and shall possess skills in Application design, preparing program specifications, coding/documentation and testing. A thorough knowledge of 4GL and C languages is essential. Shall have the ability to use CASE tools and standard structured design methodologies. Experience in developing GUI based front-end systems would be an advantage.

**Job #7: Chief Supervisor Personalisation Centre (Ref. CSPC/KSA/97)**

Salary: Dhs. 4,708/- per month including transport allowance.

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**Other Benefits:**

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PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	The theatre opens on the Ramadan Holiday with the new play entitled Aman.. Ya Ho
Eddie Murphy & Angela Bassett.... in <b>VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Michael Douglas & Annett Benning... in <b>THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Keanu Reeves & Dolph Lundgren...in <b>Johnny Mnemonic</b> Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" <b>SEVEN</b> Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 ***** CONCORD "2" Coming Soon... "Custom made Citizen" The satirical play starring Mousa Hijazin	

## Raptors win margin in cl

TORONTO (R) — Toronto Raptors won their first game in the NBA playoffs, defeating the New York Knicks 101-94 on Wednesday.

Paul Pierce scored 17 points, including a clutch three-point shot in the fourth quarter, and helped lead the Raptors to a 101-94 victory over the Knicks in Game 1 of the first round of the playoffs.

The Raptors, who finished 11th in the Eastern Conference last season, were seeded fourth in the playoffs.

The Knicks, who finished 10th in the Eastern Conference, were seeded fifth. The two teams met in the first round of the playoffs.

The Raptors' victory was a significant upset, as the Knicks were considered the favorite to win the Eastern Conference.

The Raptors' win was a testament to their improved play in the playoffs, as they had lost their first two games in the regular season.

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# Sports

## Raptors win by biggest margin in club history

TORONTO (R) — Toronto Raptors coach Darrell Walker just hopes it's for real.

Doug Christie scored 17 of his career-high 33 points in the first quarter and fuelled a pair of first-half bursts that gave the second-year Raptors the biggest victory in franchise history, 120-84 over the Portland Trail Blazers Tuesday.

Walt Williams added 24 points and rookie Marcus Camby 18 for the Raptors. Continental Basketball Association signee Reggie Slater scored 15 points and Damon Stoudamire added 11 and 13 assists for the Raptors. Clifford Rozier, another CBA signee, got 13 rebounds.

"The guys played well. The whole team played great," Toronto coach Darrell Walker said. "Reggie Slater played great. He gave us a presence in the post."

"I hope it's for real. We shot the ball, we rebounded. That's what I've been saying all year. If we do those things, we've got a chance."

The 36-point margin doubled Toronto's previous best of 18 points, accomplished twice last season. In Vancouver, Michael Jordan scored 28 points and Scottie Pippen added 24 as the Chicago Bulls won their fourth straight with a 111-96 rout of the Grizzlies, a matchup that featured the league's best and worst teams.

Chicago (38-5) improved its league-best road record to 17-4. Bryant Reeves had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead Vancouver (8-38), which fell to 6-20 at home.

At Indiana, Glen Rice scored 30 points and Vlade Divac added 14 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as the Charlotte Hornets bounced back from their worst loss of the season to defeat the Pacers 98-97.

Rice, who had a streak of 30-point games snapped at

five in a 106-73 loss to the Cavaliers Saturday, sealed the win by grabbing a key rebound and hitting a pair of free throws in the final four seconds.

Reggie Miller scored 26 points for Indiana, which has dropped three straight.

In New York, Chris Childs' only basket of the game, a three-pointer with 8.4 seconds to play, lifted the Knicks to their 18th straight victory over the Boston Celtics, 109-107.

Antoine Walker had 27 points and 16 rebounds but Celtics guard Todd Day missed a three-pointer at the buzzer as Boston fell to a league-worst 1-16 on the road and 0-12 against divisional foes.

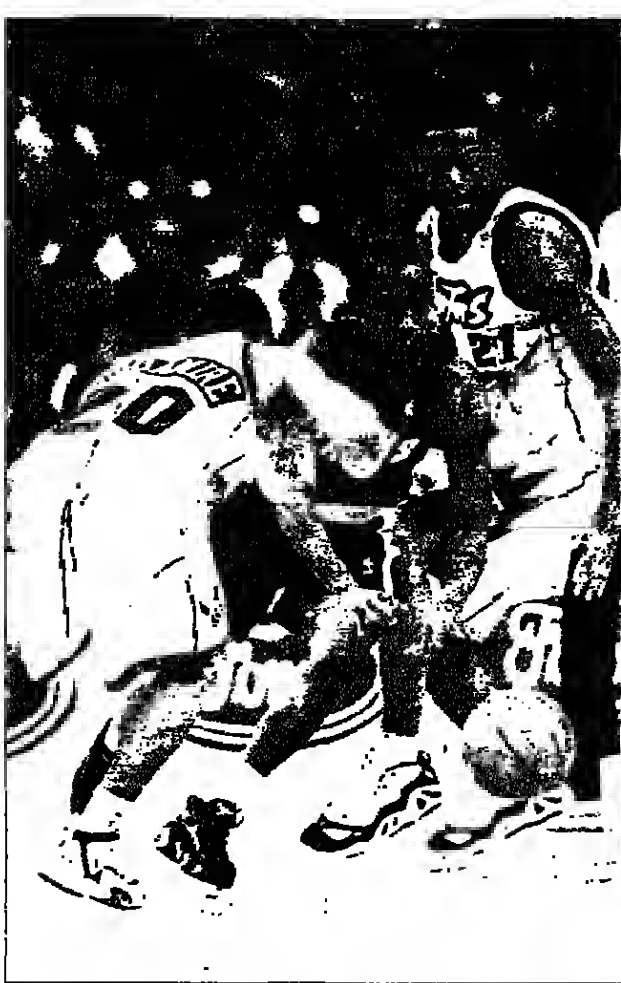
Allan Houston had 25 points and Charles Oakley added 20 and 14 rebounds as the Knicks won their 15th straight home game. New York has not lost to Boston at Madison Square Garden since January 10, 1993.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 28 points and 13 rebounds and Jeff Hornacek scored 27 points to lead the Jazz to their fourth straight victory, 114-99 over the Denver Nuggets.

The Jazz have won seven straight home games and all three meetings with the Nuggets this season. Laphonso Ellis scored 23 points and Mark Jackson notched his second triple-double of the season with 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets.

In Dallas, Shaquille O'Neal scored 31 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Nick Van Exel added 19 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the short-handed Mavericks 102-83.

Jamal Mashburn scored 26 points for Dallas, which was without leading scorer Chris Gatling, suspended for one game following a dispute with coach Jim Clemons, and guard Sam Cassell was sidelined with a bruised left thigh.



Portland Trail Blazers' guard Kenny Anderson (C) splits the defence of Toronto Raptors' guard Damon Stoudamire (L) and forward Marcus Camby (R) during first quarter NBA action in Toronto (Reuters photo)

At Minnesota, Kevin Gamble scored seven of his 10 points in the fourth quarter when the Sacramento Kings erased a 12-point deficit and rallied for a 91-88 victory over the Timberwolves, who were scoreless in the final three minutes.

Mitch Richmond scored 28 points for the Kings.

At Washington, Juwan Howard had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Tracy Murray added 18 points off the bench as the Bullets broke open a close game midway through the third quarter and beat the Orlando Magic 102-82.

Chris Webber recorded 17 points and 14 rebounds and George Mursan added 12 and 14, helping the Bullets to a 53-37 rebounding edge. In Los Angeles, Mookie Blaylock scored 34 points to lead the Atlanta Hawks to

their third straight victory, a 112-96 trouncing of the Clippers.

Los Angeles has lost six of its last eight games.

In Milwaukee, Grant Hill recorded 22 points and eight rebounds and Lindsey Hunter added 17 points as the Detroit Pistons won their third straight, 93-84 over the Bucks.

Vito Baker got 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Milwaukee.

At New Jersey, Terrell Brandon scored 18 points and Bobby Phillips 16 as the Cleveland Cavaliers held the Nets to their lowest point total to NBA franchise history, 84-62.

Cleveland had lost eight of its last 10 games. Keodall Gill tallied 19 points for New Jersey, which has dropped three straight, five of six and nine of 11.

## In preparation for World Cup qualifiers Kingdom's national soccer team leaves for Beirut Friday

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's national soccer team leave for Beirut Friday where they will play the first of two friendly matches against the Lebanese national team Sunday in preparation for their upcoming World Cup qualifiers which start April 8 in Manama, Bahrain.

Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) secretary Hisham Asfour said the Lebanese team will play in Amman Feb. 6 before the Kingdom's team travels to Baghdad for an extensive training camp March 9-28 where they will also play three matches.

Mr. Asfour said the other friendlies include two against Syria, March 16 in Amman and March 23 in Damascus, while the matches against the Omani team will be held in Muscat March 8 and 11.

Jordan had last played the Lebanese team in 1993 losing 1-0 in Beirut and winning 4-1 in Irbid.

The JSF had allocated almost JD 66,000 to prepare the national team who have been in a training camp in Amman for the past month.

Thirty-six Asian countries will contest the first round World Cup qualifiers and have been divided into ten groups.

Jordan will be playing in Group 3 alongside the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The top team in each of the 10 groups will qualify for

the second round where the teams will be divided into two groups.

The first two from each group will then contest the Asian finals.

The first three qualify directly for the 1998 World Cup in France while the winner of a play-off between the fourth team and the Oceania Zone winner will also qualify.

The Kingdom's team includes Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Mu'taz Rishah, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Yousef Ammouri, Amjad Taher, Mohammad Khaz'ali, Isam Mahmoud, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Faisal Ibrahim, Hussein Shananeh, Abdallah Shiyab, Ra'fat Ali, Adnan Awad, Raed Momani, Bassam Al Khatib, Aref Hussein, Khaled Yousef, Munir Abu Hantash, Nart Yadaj, Walid Abdul Rahman.

Seven of Al Faisali's players, currently on leave to take part in their Arab Champion Cup in Morocco next month, will not join the national team's match in Beirut. They are Ahmad Khalil, Mohammad Mahadin, Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Ja'far Hamad, Hasounah Sheikh, Jiryes Tadros.

Al Faisali will join Arab Cup champs Morocco's Olympic Khreibeh, Arab Clubs champions Egypt's Al Ahli, and runner-up Morocco's Al Raja.

Head coach Mohammad Awad said the seven might join the team starting with the matches in Oman.

## Kanchelskis set to move from Everton to Fiorentina

FLORENCE (AFP) — Italian Cup holders Fiorentina have made a six-million pound swoop for Everton's troubled Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis.

Fiorentina, who claim to have Kanchelskis' agreement for the move, tabled the offer in a fax to the Merseyside club.

Depending on Everton's response, top Italian officials will be flying to England later on Wednesday. Fiorentina face a race against time as the transfer market here closes at midnight on

Thursday. Fiorentina managing director Luciano Luna said: "Kanchelskis has always been one of our objectives. On Monday night, we made a substantial offer to Everton. Now we're waiting for an answer."

But he added: "We hope to wrap everything up by January 30, so that he can start straight away. However, we're also willing to buy him after January 30. He's of interest to us for the present and for the future."

Club president (Vittorio) Cecchi Gori has always been willing to strengthen the squad so that, in the future, it can be guaranteed of making a leap forward in terms of quality.

He went on: "We've already agreed terms with Kanchelskis over salary and the length of the contract" — which is believed to be 600,000 pounds net a season until 2001, plus bonuses.

Fiorentina coach Claudio Ranieri has been impressed with the Russian winger after watching recent lapses of

him in action.

The Italians hope that, playing alongside Argentine ace Gabriel Batistuta, Kanchelskis would give them a chance of finishing second in the Serie A this season and earning a place in the expanded champions league.

Everton, rocked by Saturday's stunning FA Cup defeat to first division strugglers Bradford — have lost six matches in a row, with Kanchelskis hampered by injury and loss of form.

## World Cup win

"I'd like to show that this ability to give good performance in competitive situations is what I had in my mind to keep me very hard for the last years."

Lu was one of the Chinese winners of the fifth leg of the World Cup series in 25 January.

OB VACANCY

Organisation is seeking to recruit by email with lots of email addresses.

Lead, plan, organise, develop, control all phases of the organisation into a sustainable structure.

Bachelor degree in analytical chemistry; ability to train and manage in Community Development; must have experience in the field of computers, excellent analytical skills, and demonstrate a required fluency in English.

Send, please send your CV to Fax 612902

WANTED UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

National company is looking to employ graduates, age around 25 years, with a degree in any field. The successful candidate will be responsible for the company's development. Location shall be in Amman. If taken place abroad, it shall be a commitment to a job with a following address:

815409, Amman 11180

Investment Corporation (JIC)

sell its 140,000 shares in the JIC. Cigarettes Company. Investors are requested to submit a following conditions:

1. Application. 2. Number of shares to buy is 100. 3. Price of shares is 10 JD. 4. The JIC should be submitted to the JIC. 5. Feb. 1997.

Information, please contact: Nabil & Hisham's Theatre. Amman, 7th Circle. 18181/5 Fax: 816915 Amman

The theatre opens on the Ramadan Holiday with the new play entitled Aman.. Ya Ho

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# Saddam's wife placed under house arrest in clan feud — exiles

*Iraq: Iran refuses to give up assailants*

CAIRO (Agencies) — Saddam Hussein has put his wife under house arrest after she opposed his plan to forgive the killers of his two sons-in-law as a way to reunite his feuding clan, Iraqi dissidents and other sources said Wednesday.

In another development, the Iraqi government accused Iran of refusing to surrender suspects in a Dec. 12 attack on President Saddam's eldest son Uday.

Since the Gulf war, President Saddam's regime has increasingly relied on a dwindling inner circle of close family members.

According to the dissidents, President Saddam wanted to arrange for relatives of the sons-in-law to forgive the killers, who also were members of the Saddam clan.

But, the dissidents said, Sajida Talfah, President Saddam's first wife, insisted that those who took part in the slaying of her sons-in-law must be punished before there can be a family reconciliation.

A senior U.S. military officer also said Tuesday in Washington that Sajida Talfah was under house arrest but offered no details. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I think it's very interesting that Saddam has just put his wife under house arrest," he said. The officer, who asked not to be identified, said her arrest was learned "from a good source."

"Uday has been hit very, very hard and has one or two bullets left in his spine and is somewhat paralysed," he told reporters.

Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. envoy in charge of disarming Iraq, reported that Uday also had developed gangrene and was in danger of losing his leg, the officer said.

President Saddam's sons-in-law, Hussein Kamel Al Majid and his brother Saddam

Kamel, were killed by family members after they returned to Iraq in February from Jordan, where they had defected from the Saddam regime.

Hussein Kamel Al Majid had been in charge of Iraq's secret weapons programme, while Saddam Kamel Al Majid was deputy head of the Iraqi leader's palace guard. The two were married to President Saddam's daughters Raghad and Rana, and their defection was a major embarrassment to the regime.

At the time, President Saddam blessed the killings and called the sons-in-laws traitors.

But Haroun Mohammad, a spokesman for the Iraqi National Accord, a dissident group based in Jordan, said President Saddam now hoped to repair the two brothers' reputations and forgive their killers as a way to unite his clan.

According to Mr. Mohammad, President Saddam is particularly anxious to end rifts in his family after an attack last month that left his son Uday wounded and hospitalized since some have charged dissident members of the Saddam family carried out that attack.

Mr. Mohammad said that President Saddam decided to give the Al Majid family 750 million dinars (\$750,000) in blood money and so the killers of the sons-in-law could be forgiven.

At the same time, Mr. Mohammad said, Saddam wanted to restore the military pensions of the Al Majid brothers and refer to them as "martyrs of tribal rage" as a way to clear their names as defectors.

But Mr. Mohammad said that Sajida has insisted that all those who participated in the slayings must be punished, including General Ali Hassan Al Majid, a former defense

minister who reportedly led the group that killed her sons-in-law.

President Saddam and Sajida, have five children — three daughters and two sons. Since the slaying of the sons-in-law, Sajida and her two daughters have reportedly had a falling out with President Saddam and live in Tikrit, the Iraqi president's home town.

President Saddam is believed to have married a second wife, whom he has since divorced, and then to have taken another wife, Hana Al Khafaji.

Iran has refused to put on trial or surrender people whom Iraq suspects were behind the bid to assassinate Uday in December. Iraqi officials charged Wednesday.

In a message to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan published here, Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf denounced "Iran's refusal to hand over or try criminals who committed this odious act against Uday Saddam Hussein."

Baghdad made such a request to Tehran after gunmen shot and wounded Uday as he was driving through the wealthy Mansour neighbourhood of the Iraqi capital on Dec. 12.

The Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim group Al Daawa was the first group to claim responsibility for the attack, but a less known group, Al Nahda, announced last week it staged the ambush.

Mr. Sahaf said he had received an Iranian response to the Iraqi request through its U.N. representative that "carries expressions contrary to diplomatic custom."

He urged the U.N. secretary general "to help push the Iranian government to respect its international commitments by trying criminals or handing them over to the Iraqi authorities for trial."



Ahmad Jadallah (right) touches the plain wooden coffin of his brother Salah as Palestinian police unload the body from an Israeli military truck on Wednesday at the Beit Hanoun checkpoint leading into the Gaza Strip. Israel handed over the remains of two militants to the Palestinian National Authority, more than two years after the guerrillas were killed. Salah Jadallah was killed when Israeli troops stormed a West Bank hideout to free soldier Nachshon Waxman who the militant Hamas movement had kidnapped and was holding hostage. The second guerrilla, Hassan Abbas, was killed in Jerusalem during an attack on Israelis at a mall of sidewalk cafes (Reuters photo)

## Hamas warns against Abu Marzouk extradition after he drops court battle

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Wednesday warned the United States and Israel against the extradition to Israel of one of their leaders, Musa Abu Marzouk, who is in detention in the United States, saying the move would trigger unrest in the region.

Dr. Abu Marzouk said earlier he would drop his legal challenge to extradition to Israel.

"I have instructed my lawyers to demand that the State Department effect my immediate surrender to Israel," he said in a message tape-recorded on Jan. 16 in a prison in New York where he has been held for over 18 months.

"I am ready to go to Israel and suffer martyrdom," he said on the tape played at a press conference.

Dr. Abu Marzouk, who maintained his innocence of charges that he ordered anti-Israeli attacks, is expected to be sent to Israel within 60 days of the withdrawal of his legal appeal Tuesday.

"Rather than continuing to be part of this unfair process ... I am ready to go to Israel where at least I will be afforded a hearing on these absurd charges."

Dr. Abu Marzouk, who has lived in the United States since 1982, said he was responsible only for Hamas' social activities and fund-raising. He was arrested under an Israeli international warrant in July 1995. He unsuccessfully appealed a court ruling for his extradition and had launched a second challenge.

"It has become apparent that my incarceration serves only the political interest of the Israeli government," he said.

His lawyer Michael Kennedy said his client had decided to terminate the legal battle "since the whole process is political."

Mr. Kennedy and Dr. Abu Marzouk's other attorneys said they were seeking guarantees from the State Department that the United States will press Israel to try the Hamas leader in a civil rather than military court.

Dr. Abu Marzouk's wife, Nadia Al Ashi, listened to her husband's words with tears in her eyes. She made a separate appeal to the State Department and to the president and first lady that her husband not be extradited.

The followers of Dr. Abu Marzouk will carry out attacks if the United States extradites him to Israel for trial on murder and conspiracy charges, said his brother, Mahmoud, a brigadier in the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip.

"I advise the U.S. administration not to extradite him to Israel if they don't want more victims," Mahmoud Abu Marzouk told the Associated Press.

"There is no power that could stop vengeance if any harm comes to him," he said. "His followers... will attack, and there are many followers."

He suggested that Hamas followers might attack U.S. targets.

"The United States will be responsible for this criminal extradition," he said. "The United States knows how many followers and supporters he has in the Arab and Islamic World."

An Abu Marzouk trial in Israel could cause new complications in the peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel's government.

## Clinton confident of Saudi cooperation in investigation into Dhahran bombing

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said on Tuesday he had been assured by the Saudi government at "the highest level" that it would cooperate in investigating the bombing that killed 19 U.S. soldiers near Dhahran last year.

Mr. Clinton, asked about criticism by U.S. officials of Saudi cooperation, said at a news conference: "I'm confident that in the end they will do what I have been assured personally by the highest levels of the Saudi government that they should do."

Last week Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Louis Freeh and Attorney General Janet Reno said Saudi Arabia was frustrating U.S. efforts to determine responsibility for the June 25 bombing, saying Saudi Arabia had failed to provide answers to key questions.

"The Saudi government has assured us at the very highest level that (the FBI) would get answers to those questions and so I expect that to happen," Mr. Clinton said at his first news conference since his second-term inauguration last week.

"An investigation of this kind raises all kinds of complex questions about cooperation ... (versus Saudi) sovereignty, about what other interests of that nation might be in play," he said, adding: "We still have further requests for information ... we'll see how it comes out."

The Saudi embassy released a statement on Friday from Ambassador Prince Bandar Ben Sultan saying close cooperation between officials from both countries would continue.

"We have always reached agreement on a broad and significant range of issues. Excellent working relations exist between officials of both countries at all levels. That close cooperation will continue," the statement said.

Mr. Clinton also said that after last year's bombing, and an attack in 1995 that killed five Americans in Riyadh, security had been stepped up considerably to protect the 35,000 U.S. personnel in the kingdom.

"There is no such thing as a risk-free world," he said, but after the considerable investment by Washington and the Saudis over the last year he felt the troops there were safer.

The U.S. embassy in Riyadh last weekend issued a statement saying it continues to receive unconfirmed reports of possible attacks on U.S. interests in the kingdom and urging Americans to exercise extreme caution.

The warning was issued on an embassy emergency telephone line and dated Jan. 25.

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## Weapons found at Kuwait oil export terminal — report

KUWAIT (R) — Weapons and ammunition were found hidden at Kuwait's crude oil and refined products export terminal of Mina Al Ahmadi, Al Rai Al Aum newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The daily said the weapons were not related to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and were recently placed there "for later use."

Officials refused to immediately comment on the report.

The newspaper quoted "informed sources" as saying in the front-page report that the Interior Ministry had uncovered a variety of arms hidden in a room at Ahmadi including hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades.

State refiner Kuwait National Petroleum Company has a 440,000 barrel per day refinery at Ahmadi, a major exporter of middle distillates such

as gas oil (diesel) and kerosene to Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

"The sources said that the arms were very carefully stored. The method of storing does not indicate that the weapons were left behind after the (1990) Iraqi invasion (of Kuwait) but indicates that they were recently placed at the port... and stored for later use," the newspaper added.

It gave no further details.

Iraqi troops left behind tonnes of weapons and ammunition in the emirate as the U.S.-led Gulf war military coalition chased them into Iraq six years ago.

Kuwait, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has a two million bpd quota and a local refining capacity of about 850,000 bpd.

## House okays 18 articles of draft companies law seen as key to progress

By Maria Bizri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday ratified 18 of the 292 articles of a draft companies law.

Described by the prime minister, Cabinet ministers and several deputies as a beacon for Jordan's economic future, the draft law contains measures which aim at introducing decentralisation, reducing bureaucratic red-tape and removing legislative inadequacies present in the 1989 law.

The law targets a wide range of corporate issues previously unaddressed, including the prevention of double taxation and incentives for investment.

The draft introduces amendments to articles governing mergers and also provides what the government describes as a coherent guide for the process of privatisation in the Kingdom.

The House session, chaired by Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour and attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, was marked by an agreement between deputies and Cabinet ministers over the importance of the draft law in shaping the economic future of Jordan in light of the regional and international economic developments.

The draft law is part of a package of economic legislation that would cover the capital market, intellectual property rights, customs and foodstuffs which will serve to

encourage investment and competition in Jordan.

Earlier in the session, the House listened to comments made by deputies on local issues including health facilities in the south, reports on an incident involving Jordanians in Kuwaiti prisons (see separate story), the need for drawing up new criteria for appointment to government posts and the alleged arrests of students.

Deputy Ahmad Kofahi stated that security forces had arrested several student leaders at various universities on charges of being Islamic activists. He said that the arrests, which were made at night, were conducted in a manner which violated human rights and demanded the release of all students.

Deputy Badr Riati called special attention to the health situation in the southern region and called on the government to furnish the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba with all necessary equipment which would enable it to provide full medical care to the citizens of the region.

Deputy Bassam Emoush urged the government to make every possible effort in order to ensure the possible release of 25 Jordanians detained in Israeli prisons. Officials have said that the number of detainees were 17.

There was no immediate explanation as to the disparity between the number of detainees quoted by Deputy Emoush and that by the officials.

## COLUMBIA

New Zealander wrestles shark on a whim

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand has produced its own answer to Australia's "Crocodile Dundee." Newspapers and radio said that a man jumped off a boat to wrestle a four-metre shark in the popular south island tourist spot of Milford Sound. Grant Lightfoot leaped in, tussled with the large thresher shark and killed it with a knife. "I don't know why I did it. It was a spur-of-the-moment thing," said Lightfoot, who added that he had previously wrestled conger eels and octopuses. The incident on Tuesday matched the feat of Crocodile Dundee, the fictional crocodile-wrestling Australian, who back hero played by Paul Hogan in the film of the same name.

Diana plans gala dress sale for charity

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana is planning to donate her wedding dress to a British museum and to sell 65 evening dresses for charity, a newspaper said. The Daily Telegraph said the ex-wife of heir-to-the throne Prince Charles is determined to redefine her image and "pursue a new role outside the conventional royal mould." "She will announce that she intends to give the dress which she wore in 1981 to the Victoria Albert museum for permanent public display," the newspaper said. "At the same time, she will announce the most glamorous second-hand clothes sale in history with a proposed auction of 65 evening dresses in June." The charity sale, expected to be held at Christie's auction house, could make more than one million sterling (\$1.61 million).

Youth robbers use chewing gum

MEXICO CITY (R) — Young robbers in a Mexico City suburb are using chewing gum as their main tool to plunder cars at stoplights. Dozens of hapless drivers waiting for the lights to turn green in Nezahualcoyotl have been robbed after chewing gum has been stuck to their windows, effectively making them marked cars, TV reports and authorities said. Young gang members wander around idling cars and mark those with booty inside. At following lights, older members look out for the tell-tale gum sign and carry out smash and grab robberies.

Virginia to 'retire' racially offensive state song

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — The Virginia Senate has voted to retire the official state song after charges that its references to "darkies" and "old massa" were racially offensive. The Senate voted 24-15 to make "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" the "Official State Song Emeritus," a compromise for those who wanted the song junked entirely. It also voted to set up a committee to find a new state song. "Debate over the song has raged for several years and blacks and whites bridled at lines like: 'There's where the old darkie's heart am longed to go. That's where I laboured so hard for old massa'."

Bangladeshi men wrestle for love

DHAKA (AFP) — Two young Bangladeshi men were forced to wrestle for the hand of a woman after she announced she loved both and was unable to choose between her suitors, a report said here Wednesday. The wrestling match in a fishing village in southern Bhola district was organised by the woman's family and took place Tuesday. The 16-year-old bride, Mohammad Rafiq, 26, defeated his 25-year-old rival, Mohammad Salam, in front of a crowd of hundreds which included the subject of their affections, Sahera Khanum, and her family. Khanum's age was not given. The wedding took place shortly after the wrestling match.

## Peruvian, Japanese leaders

TORONTO (R) — Peru's President Alan Garcia today for talks with Prime Minister Yashuwanth Prasad in the Japanese embassy residence in London in a bid to end the Peru-Japan dispute over the 1995 Peru-Japan trade agreement. Mr. Garcia was scheduled to meet with Mr. Prasad on Wednesday. The two were scheduled to meet in Tokyo after Garcia's visit to Japan. Garcia's visit to Japan was part of a series of diplomatic efforts to improve relations between the two countries. The dispute over the trade agreement has been a major point of contention between the two nations.

Volume 22 Number 64

## U.S. letters promise adherence

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has given Palestinian leaders a letter promising to make Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank a condition for U.S. aid. The letter, sent by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said the U.S. would not support any Israeli military operations in the West Bank until Israel had withdrawn its forces from the area. The letter also promised to support the implementation of the 1995 interim peace agreement. These include releasing Palestinian prisoners, opening "safe passage" corridors, and other measures. The letter was part of a series of diplomatic efforts to improve relations between the U.S. and the Palestinians.

## Israel refuses withdrawal

Syria defends Lebanon

HAIFA (Agencies) — Israel's military chief of staff, General Amnon Shuhub, rejected on Friday any unilateral withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon.

"A unilateral withdrawal of our troops from South Lebanon would only threaten the safety of towns in northern Israel," Gen. Shuhub said on Israel Radio during a hospital visit here to an Israeli soldier wounded in South Lebanon.

An Israeli army officer and two other soldiers were killed and a fourth wounded on Thursday when Hamas-backed Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a bomb in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"There is no one to compete in a world with in Lebanon the government in Beirut, and it will not take responsibility for what happens in South Lebanon," Gen. Shuhub added.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also called on Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, with 45,000 Syrian troops stationed there, to resume peace talks with Israel.

"It's the only way to end the terrorism and violence," Mr. Mordechai said.

Israel has stepped up diplomatic efforts in the past week to bring Syria back into peace talks, which were suspended last year.

But Damascus rebuffed the probes, insisting Israel commit to a pullout from

"Bu